THE STATE HORNET

FEBRUARY 11, 2009 | CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO | EST. 1949 | ONE COPY FREE

HORNET INSIDE

EVERLASTING LOVE

Find out why one Sac State professor dove into the past of forbidden lovers.

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BART SHOOTING

A local band, Trash Talk, organizes a benefit concert at the Gilman theater in Berkeley. Johnson wants young people to know and speak up about what appears to be a case of police brutality.

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Ox

What's your zodiac sign? Find out on A4 and read about Sacramento State's Chinese New Year celebration.

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HORNET ONLINE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Sac State's men's basketball team hopes to end its season with a victory. The Hornets will play the Montana State Bobcats; check out the game recap.

Online Saturday

THE STATE HORNET

Issue 3 | Volume 61 | No. 17

Johnson, Gonzalez meet

By Michael Mette
mmette@statehornet.com

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez and a number of Sacramento's top regional leaders met Monday to discuss how the city and the university will work together on future stimulus projects.

The proposals were announced to inform Congress how federal stimulus money could be spent in the Sacramento region.

"It's simple," Johnson said. "We need to create jobs. Our nation is facing one of the most economic difficult crises in our lifetime. Just in the month of December alone, 4,700 people lost their jobs in our region."

Some of the most-noted projects included road maintenance, levee repairs in Natomas and funding for projects at Sac State.

"Our projects are shovel-ready and hammer-ready," Gonzalez said when discussing the need for these stimulus projects to be geared towards college students. "They just need to be student ready."

Some of the projects Gonzalez announced include updating the school's science equipment and refurbishing Del Norte Hall, the site of the old bookstore.

Johnson said that regional leaders would do as much as possible for students, in terms of student employment and facility improvement, but cannot say what will happen.

"We have to see what the dollar amount is," Johnson said. "Until the money comes out, it's hard to predict."

It is estimated that the proposed renovation of Del Norte Hall, which would house new classrooms and academic facilities, would cost about $7.5 million. Johnson estimated that the renovation would create 213 jobs.

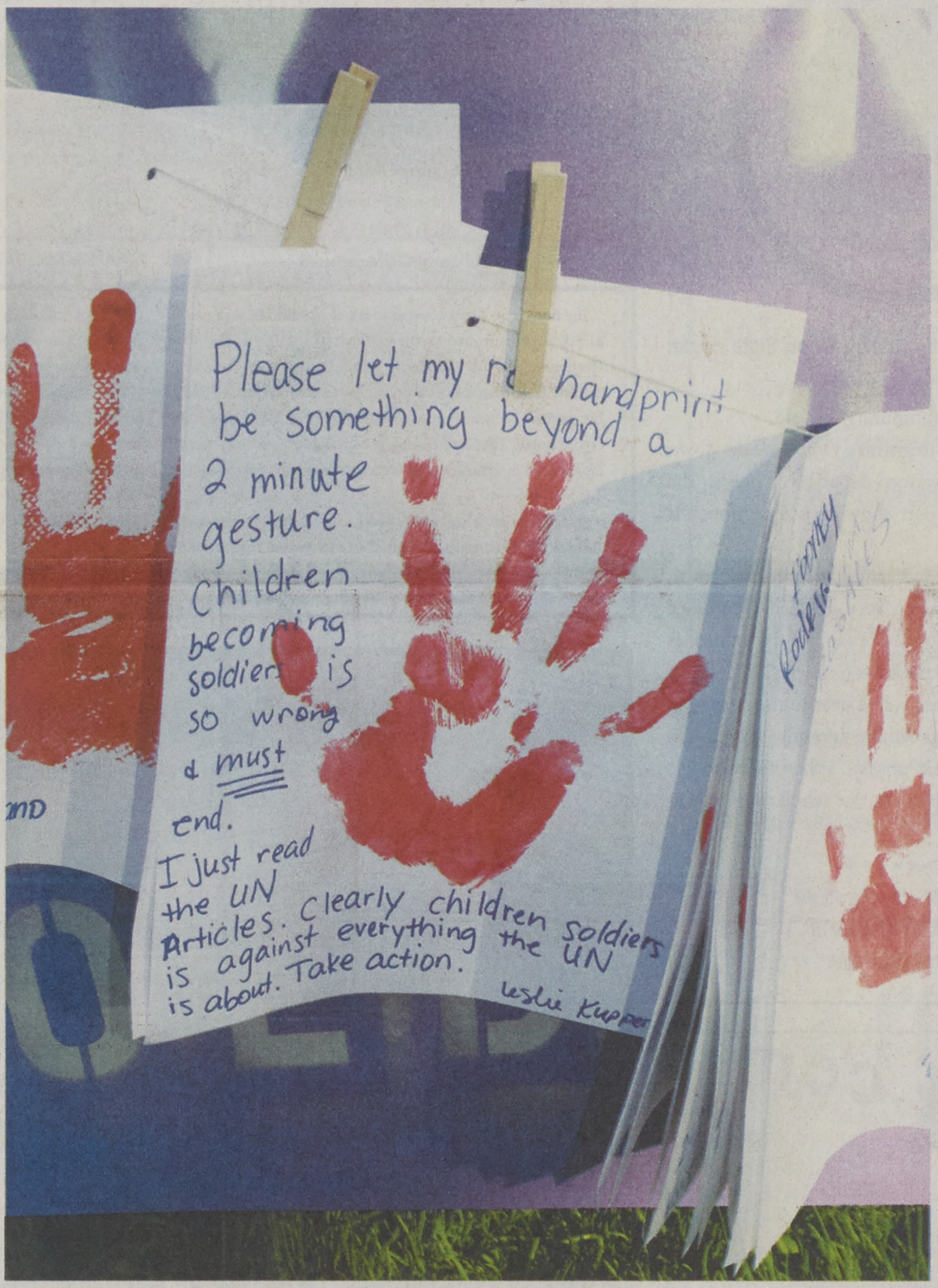
Gonzalez asked the federal government for about $1 million to purchase modern science lab equipment, saying that it will give

see **Stimulus** | page A5

Andrew Nixon State Hornet

Alexander Gonzalez and Mayor Kevin Johnson met with city officials on Monday to discuss future stimulus projects.

Hands protest child soldiers



Please let my r handprint
be something beyond a
2 minute
gesture.
Children
becoming
soldiers is
so wrong
& must
end.
I just read
the UN
Articles. Clearly children soldiers
is against everything the UN
is about. Take action.
Leslie Kupper

By Anne Morrison
amorrison@statehornet.com

Being "caught red-handed" took on a whole new meaning Feb. 3 when students painted their hands red to protest against the use of child soldiers worldwide.

Participants stamped their hand prints onto recycled syllabi and wrote letters, or just signed their name, as part of an international campaign to stop the abduction of children as young as eight to be used in armed combat across the world. The campaign is known as Red Hand Day, and human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union have dipped their hands into the movement as well.

Some professors offered extra credit to students who attended the documentary. Most of the students who came to watch the documentary ended up painting their hands red.

Christine Cervenka, sophomore business major, saw posters around campus and decided to attend after hearing a short discussion in her government class about the event.

"It's just interesting that there's a culture that centers itself around violence," Cervenka said.

Catherine Lewis, sophomore international student from England, studying international affairs, expressed concerns about her own country's awareness.

"There's a lot of apathy where I'm from, and I'm not sure why that is," she said.

The Odyssey Mentor program, a part of the government department at Sacramento State, geared up for the event about three months in advance, ready to bring the issue to campus. The hand painting took place at a booth on the side of the

see **Hands** | page A5

Left: One of the many handprints displayed in the Library Quad.

Below: A student gets her hand painted to protest children soldiers worldwide at the Red Hands Day booth on Feb. 3.

Photos by Krystle Coniglio State Hornet

> **""If we get a C one semester, there goes law school, there goes med school, there goes a good MBA program."**
>
> **Tim Snyder,** board of directors chairman for CSSA

No retake offer

By Michael Mette
mmette@statehornet.com

Associated Students, Inc. sent a resolution to the Chancellor's office protesting an executive order that forbids students to retake courses they received a grade lower than a C in.

Under Executive Order 1037, implemented by Chancellor Charles Reed's Office, students are only allowed to repeat a course if they received a grade lower than a C.

According to the ASI resolution protesting the course restrictions, the chancellor's order hinders students who want to pursue rigorous graduate programs but fail to earn the high grades to enter those schools.

ASI Executive Vice President Roberto Torres said it hurts students like himself who do not have the guidance to earn grades for graduate school.

"In order to get into a good graduate program you need to be as competitive as you can," Torres said. "In order to be competitive, sometimes you need to repeat courses."

The California State Students Association has also voted to oppose the executive order. Tim Snyder, board of directors chairman for CSSA, thinks the restrictions could limit students chances beyond Sac State.

"If we get a C one semester," Snyder said, "there goes law school, there goes med school, there goes a good MBA program."

CSSA and Snyder also realized that students who have made mistakes early in their educational careers will have to live with them, and students will intentionally fail courses in order to repeat.

CSU Director of Enrollment Management Services Jim Blackburn responded by saying the "principles of the discussion" behind the executive order still stand in the face of ASI's and CSSA's op-

see **ASI** | page A8

One click away

By David Gutierrez
news@statehornet.com

Bookstore sales for classroom response systems, or clickers, have almost doubled over the last few semester as professors have begun to implement them in more sections.

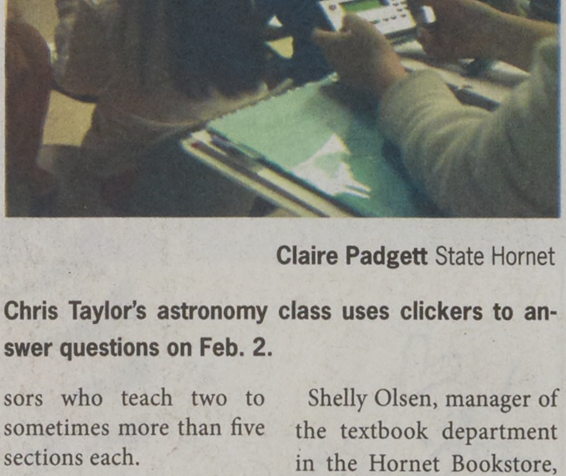
The clicker, a small remote response device, works by transmitting a radio frequency, or infrared signal, to the receiver attached to the instructor's computer. The receiver then inputs the students' answers into the teacher's computer, and is organized by software made by the same manufacturer.

Clickers were first introduced to the education system in the late 1980s, and are now being used campus wide by eleven Sacramento State professors who teach two to sometimes more than five sections each.

According to the Hornet Bookstore's Course Tracks textbook management system, 523 more clickers were sold in the fall 2008 semester than in the spring 2008 semester.

Shelly Olsen, manager of the textbook department in the Hornet Bookstore, said she has sold 1019 clickers this semester, and plans on selling several hundred more as students continue to buy their re-

see **Clickers** | page A8

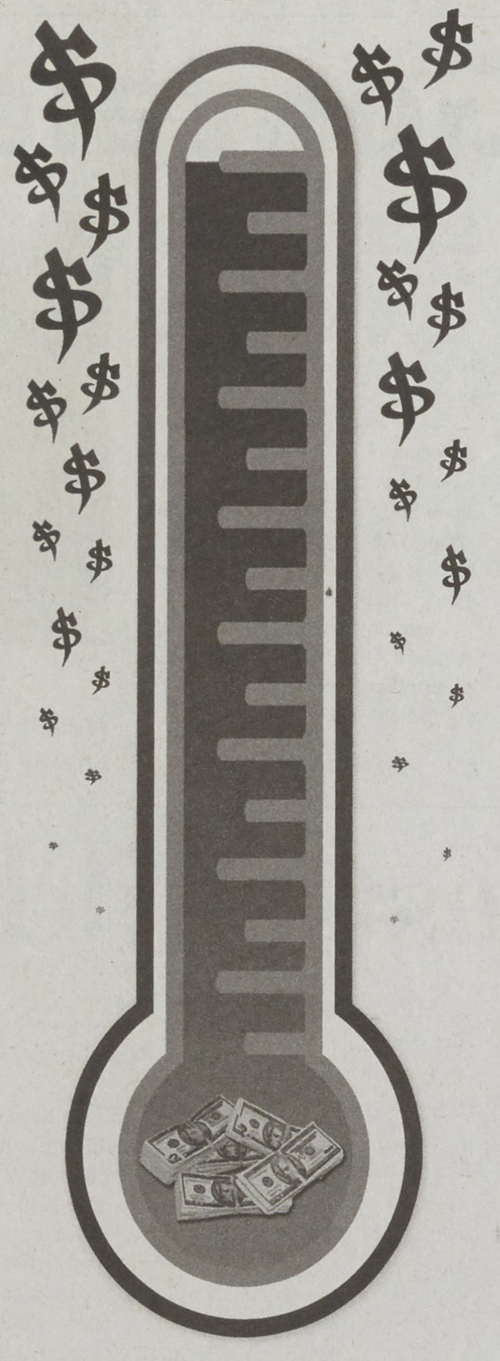


Claire Padgett State Hornet

Chris Taylor's astronomy class uses clickers to answer questions on Feb. 2.

CSU donations hit record high figures

By Sally King
sking@statehornet.com



Graphic by Martin Wood State Hornet

Despite the tight economy, donations to the California State Universities were $442 million for 2007-08, a 35 percent increase from the previous academic year.

Associate Vice President for University Development Rebecca Thompson said that last year Sacramento State received $17,987,769 in donations.

"Bequests are a very steady part of gifting at Sac State," Thompson said. She said that Many alumni defer their money and want their legacy to live on."

Erik Fallis, public relations for the CSU, said that the system is not expecting the same amount of donations as last year because the economy is not as strong and the wealth of donors, such as business owners and non-profit organizations has lessened.

Thompson said Sac State started off 2009 well, with donations reaching the halfway mark of the expected dollar amount.

"Given that people understand the value of higher education, we still have the best case to support students with their education. It helps the economy," she said.

Non-profit organizations and charities are nervous in this economy, Thompson said. People and businesses are waiting longer to make the decision of where and how much money will be donated.

Fallis said the donations are broken down into three areas.

"Nineteen million went to student scholarships, $24 million went to public service programs and $92.5 million went to academic initiatives, applied research, athletics and other current university objectives," Fallis said.

Several factors could have attributed to the increase in donation for the last year, Fallis said. The CSU believes one of the reasons is how the schools involved their local communities with the studies on campus.

A water resources department at CSU San Bernardino is one example of where the community needs a workforce that understands how to conserve water. Studies on water conservation help students who will join the farming workforce in the area.

"As the university system becomes more aware of its role in the state's economy, state universities are a ray of hope for students that want to come back to school to get additional skills for better jobs," Fallis said.

Thompson said Sac State has many events which tie the campus to the public, such as art openings, music events and football games. Thompson said that alumni who come back to the campus for sporting events and music events tend to be the ones who donate money to the school.

Last year a community council of 50 to 100 local businesses met with professors on campus to share ideas on how to run a small business. "These types of events are important," said Thompson, "because they keep people coming to the campus who have an interest in the students' futures."

Fallis said lots of students are coming back to school to become nurses, engineers and scientists. He gave an example of how many scientists need to understand the background of a business and accounting. When a school is able to provide the necessary training in areas that are growing, large businesses and government foundations see the need to provide money to these programs.

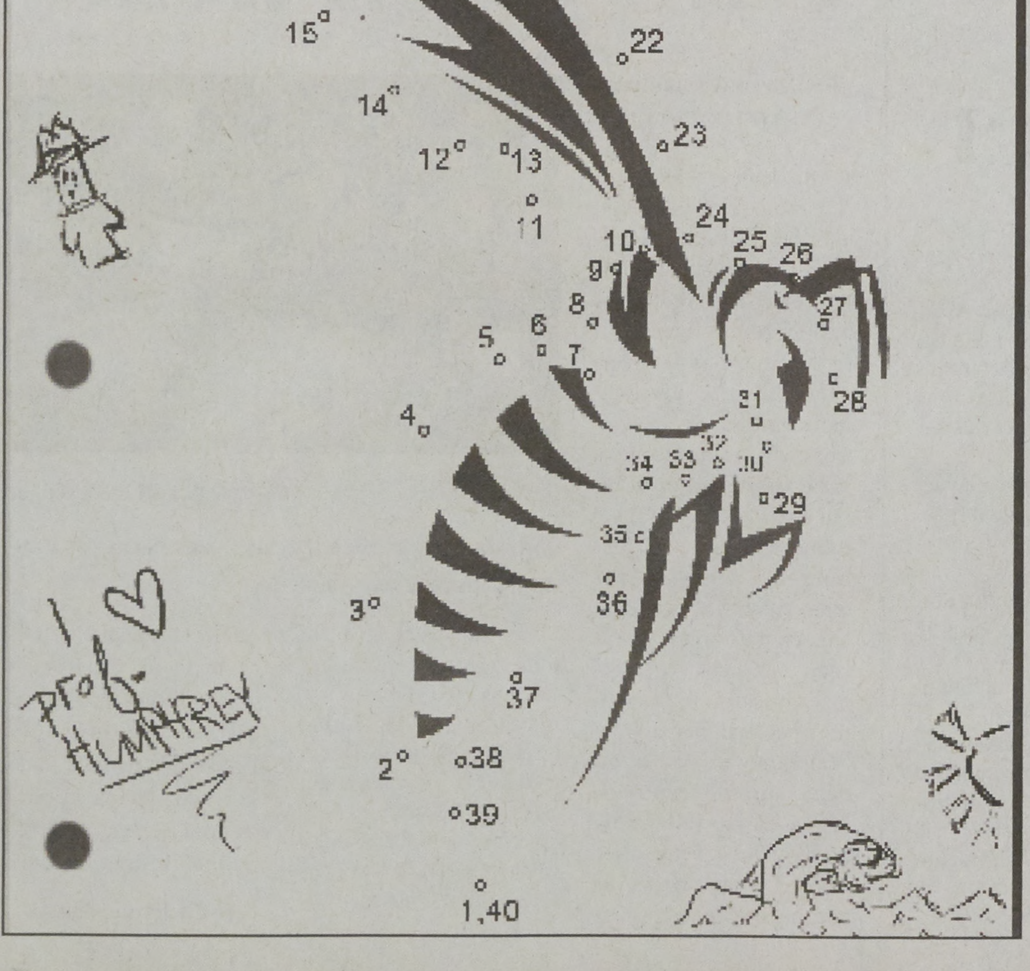
"With all programs we try to create an inviting institution for the public to support and show the value of the institution to the community," he said.

Thompson said the Registrar's Office breaks down and analyzes all the various department needs. The office will create a report showing where money is needed.

The donations specifically given to individual scholarship programs are often very detailed. The office tries to keep the categories broad, so the money is used. If the qualifications are too specific, the money cannot be used and gets rolled over to the next year. A certain physics scholarship requires the applicant to be a junior with a 4.0 in physics. When the school is unable to fill the requirement, the scholarship rolls to the next year.

◆

Contact Sally King in the News department at (916) 278-7248.



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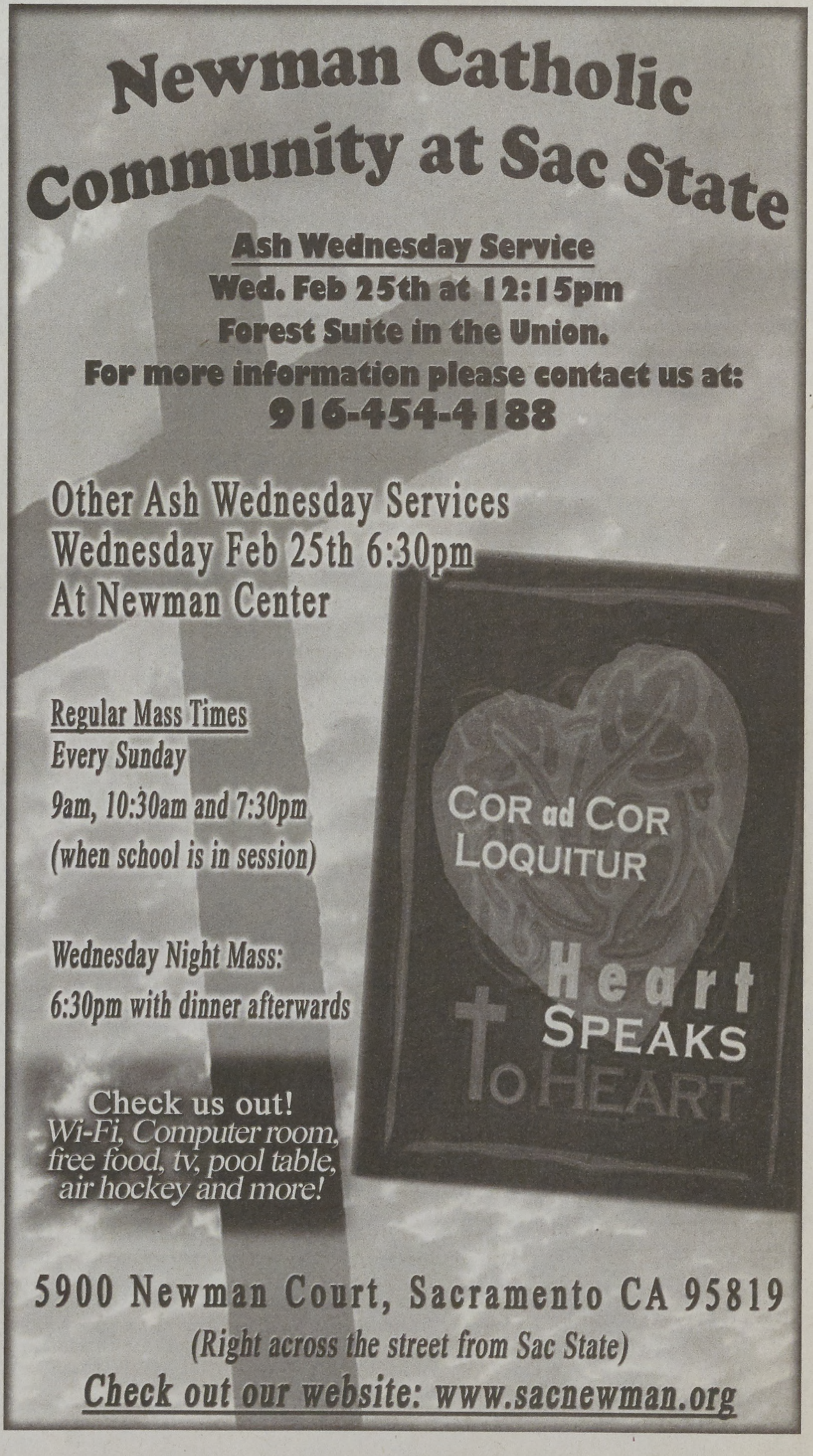


Newman Catholic Community at Sac State

Ash Wednesday Service
Wed. Feb 25th at 12:15pm
Forest Suite in the Union.
For more information please contact us at:
916-454-4188

Other Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday Feb 25th 6:30pm
At Newman Center

Regular Mass Times
Every Sunday
9am, 10:30am and 7:30pm
(when school is in session)

Wednesday Night Mass:
6:30pm with dinner afterwards

Check us out!
Wi-Fi, Computer room, free food, tv, pool table, air hockey and more!

5900 Newman Court, Sacramento CA 95819
(Right across the street from Sac State)
Check out our website: www.sacnewman.org

Struggling students should seek out aid

By Karina Yepez
kyepez@statehornet.com

Luo qin Yi, a science major and American River College transfer student, has experienced difficulties adjusting into her spring semester due to financial aid strains. The switch to Sacramento State's tuition costs has made her start applying for several scholarships to continue to pay for her books, gas and parking permit.

Yi is still taking some transferable courses at ARC to save money while she attends Sac State. Her part-time job doesn't cover all the expenses she needs especially since "the gas is too much," she said.

"Many of my friends are moving back with their parents to save money and afford school. I've even heard some divorced students moving back with their exes to just make it through," Yi said.

Interior design major Kelsey Cremer doesn't qualify for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and instead applies for a veteran's scholarship every semester. Cremer's father is retired from the military; therefore, she qualifies for the grant. However, she must have a total of 12 units and ends up paying a difference of $440.

"The economy is so bad that is getting harder to find jobs, and I just don't know how to afford school," Cremer said.

Craig Yamamoto, director of Financial Aid, said his office is not cutting any state or federal grants because the aid for 2008-09 was already budgeted.

"The state delayed advancing the Cal grant for the spring semester, yet the university made the decision to not hold students accountable for it," Yamamoto said, "and disburse those funds to students even though we didn't get the funds from the state."

The Financial Aid office is informing students about approaching deadlines to help pay for their college education. One of the most important deadlines is filing for the FAFSA on March 2. Yamamoto and the Financial Aid Office will be offering workshops to help students fill out their FAFSA online to meet priority deadlines since the federal grant are distributed to those students with the highest needs.

Yamamoto said because the financial aid process is complicated, his office's goal is to make applying for grants and awards as painless as possible.

Approximately 65 to 70 percent of students at Sac State receive financial aid, Yamamoto said.

For students who don't qualify for financial aid, there are other options such as scholarships. However, students must still complete the FAFSA application to be considered for any scholarships. The Financial Aid Office is offering now the Institutional scholarship, which is available for all students until March 3.

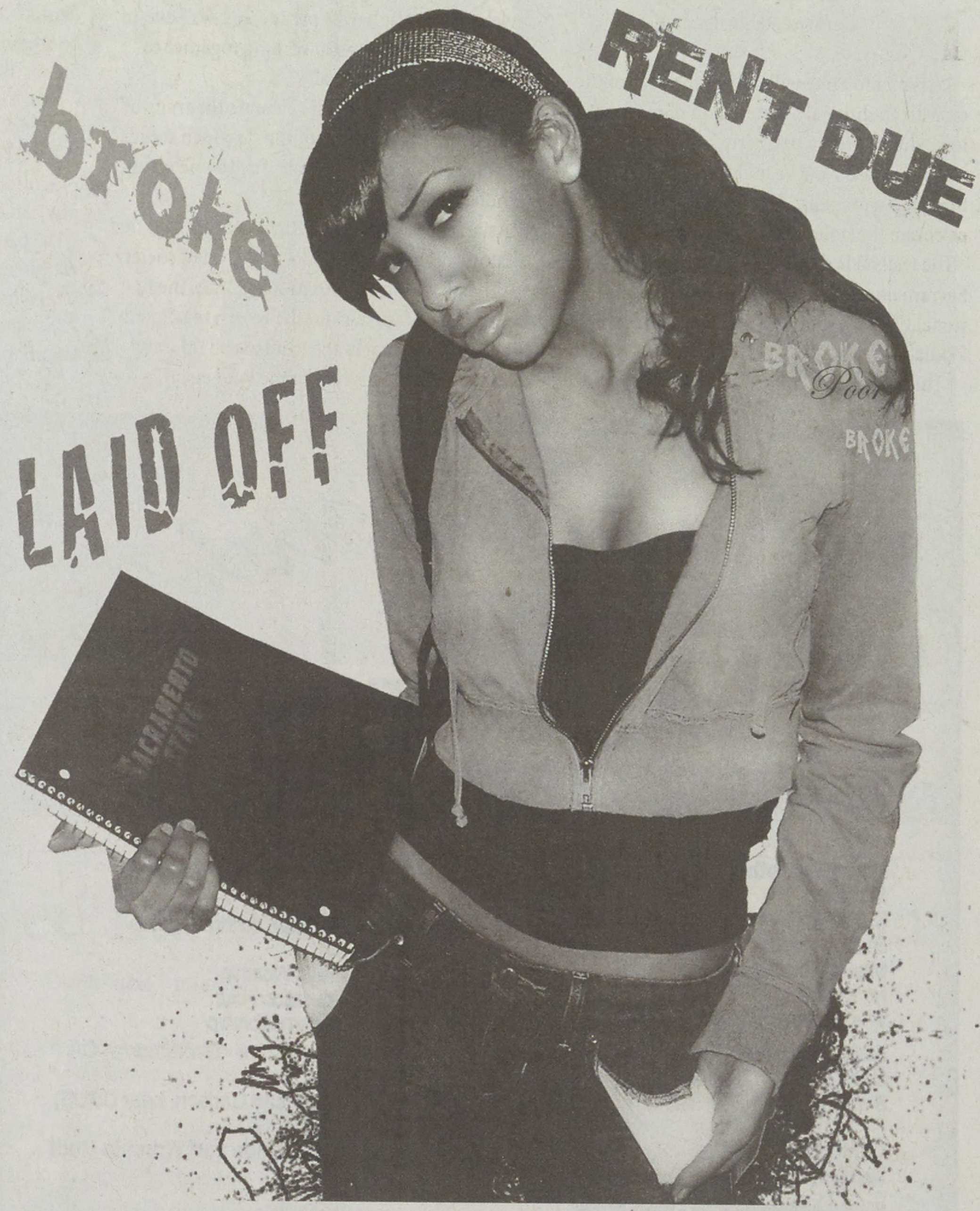
Three types of scholarships are the offered at Sac State: institutional, departmental and community scholarships. These are disbursed into two payments in the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

Once student aid awards are distributed, the office offers a service called eREFUND that electronically deposits the student's grant into their bank account.

In mid-April, the Financial Aid office will be offering other workshops for those students who did not get the opportunity to attend to the February workshop. Yamamoto said he wants the April campaign to help those students finish their FAFSA before the end of the spring semester

Yamamoto wants all students to know how important it is to finish filling out their FAFSA "the way the economy is students and families are struggling in how they are going to pay their college and making through school."

Contact Karina Yepez in the News department at (916) 278-7248.



Graphic by **Megan Harris** State Hornet

NINE THINGS STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CAL GRANTS

1. CAL GRANTS ARE FREE MONEY YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY BACK.
2. YOU CAN FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FAFSA BY GOING TO WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV AND GET A PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN).
3. YOU MUST FILE A VERIFIED GPA TO QUALIFY.
4. THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 2 TO APPLY FOR A CAL GRANT.
5. CAL GRANTS ARE ACCEPTED AT ALL UCS, CSUS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND MOST PRIVATE, CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA.
6. YOU MUST BE CALIFORNIA RESIDENT.
7. YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST A 2.0 GPA AND BE A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.
8. A CAL GRANT IS GUARANTEED IF YOU MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS.
9. CAL GRANTS ARE UP TO $9,700 OF ANNUAL FREE CASH FOR COLLEGE.

-RESEARCH BY KARINA YEPEZ

UPCOMING FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS

ALL LOCATED IN MENDOCINO HALL, ROOM 2007

2/16/09- ANYTIME BETWEEN 6:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

2/18/09- ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

2/19/09- ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

SCHOLARSHIPS AT SACRAMENTO STATE ARE AVAILABLE

1. IN THE FINANCIAL AID WEBSITE CLICKING AT SCHOLARSHIPS THEN AT DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE WHICH LIST ALL THE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM EACH DEPARTMENT OFFERED.
2. FASTWEB.COM IS ANOTHER FREE SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE THAT OFFERS MORE SCHOLARSHIPS BY SIMPLY CREATING AN ACCOUNT.
3. FINDTUITION.COM LISTS THE LATEST SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS.

-HTTPS://WEBAPPS1.CSUS.EDU/FAID_GENERAL/DEFAULT.ASP

State unemployment affects students

By Catherine Robledo
crobledo@statehornet.com

Vince Vicari, junior journalism major, will lose six and a half hours of pay as a result Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's authorized furlough plan that will prevent him from working on two Fridays each month. Vicari, a student assistant at the California Air Resources Board, said he is trying to save money and taking the bus everywhere to save gas.

Employers from retail stores to Sacramento State's on-campus jobs are cutting back on work hours during a time when there is an increasing number of students applying for jobs.

Scott Schmillen, a manager at the Trader Joe's grocery store located on 5000 Folsom Blvd., said that most applicants who apply at Trader Joe's are college students; he has laid off five people in the last month, due to the weakening economy.

"Sometimes we lose some people and sometimes we just cut back on a good amount of hours to where some stick around to keep their job, but some leave because (there are) just not enough hours for them," Schmillen said.

Students are not the only ones feeling the work hour pinch. According to Executive Order S-16-08, state employees will be furloughed, or temporarily laid off from work, for two days per month starting Feb. 1 through June 30, 2010.

Junior business major Lorenzo Almanza, also employed with the California Air Resources Board, said that he is losing 18 hours of work a month because of the furlough.

"I'm probably not going to eat out as much, or drive as much." Almanza said. "It's not going to be very comfortable."

Almanza said that he knows Sac State graduates who are having difficulty finding jobs in the market right now.

Celexsy Adame, University Enterprises, Inc. Director of Marketing Services, said that about 500 students who work through UEI had their work time reduced because of the executive order.

"There has been an increase in students who have been laid off. It has to do with the state's executive order," Adame said.

According to the executive order, issued last July, state agencies under the governor's executive authority are to terminate the services of certain state workers, including student assistants.

Working at the California Air Resources Board as a student assistant, junior health science major Mike Veridiano said that he has to save a lot more and work more hours instead of focusing on school.

"Students should try to be optimistic as possible. Sure, being laid off is a drag, but it'll give them more time to focus on school," Veridiano said.

On campus, Dining Commons Production Manager Angel Balaoing said there has been a 25 percent increase in the number of students applying through UEI to work there this semester.

Demetri Lopotan, manager at Burger King located in the University Union, said that a lot of students turn in applications, but it's tough right now to hire them because there are not that many hours.

"When someone turns in or somebody quits, that's the only time we have opening jobs," Lopotan said.

Businesses within a one-mile radius of campus, such as Jamba Juice and Starbucks, noticed an increasing number of students applying at their locations.

Rad Bauton, from the Starbucks located on 508 Pavilions Lane, said most locations are "overstaffed at the moment."

Not all places have seen an increase in students applying for jobs. Erika Torres, manager at the Gordito Burrito located in the Union, said they have not received any new applications from any students, a decrease from last semester.

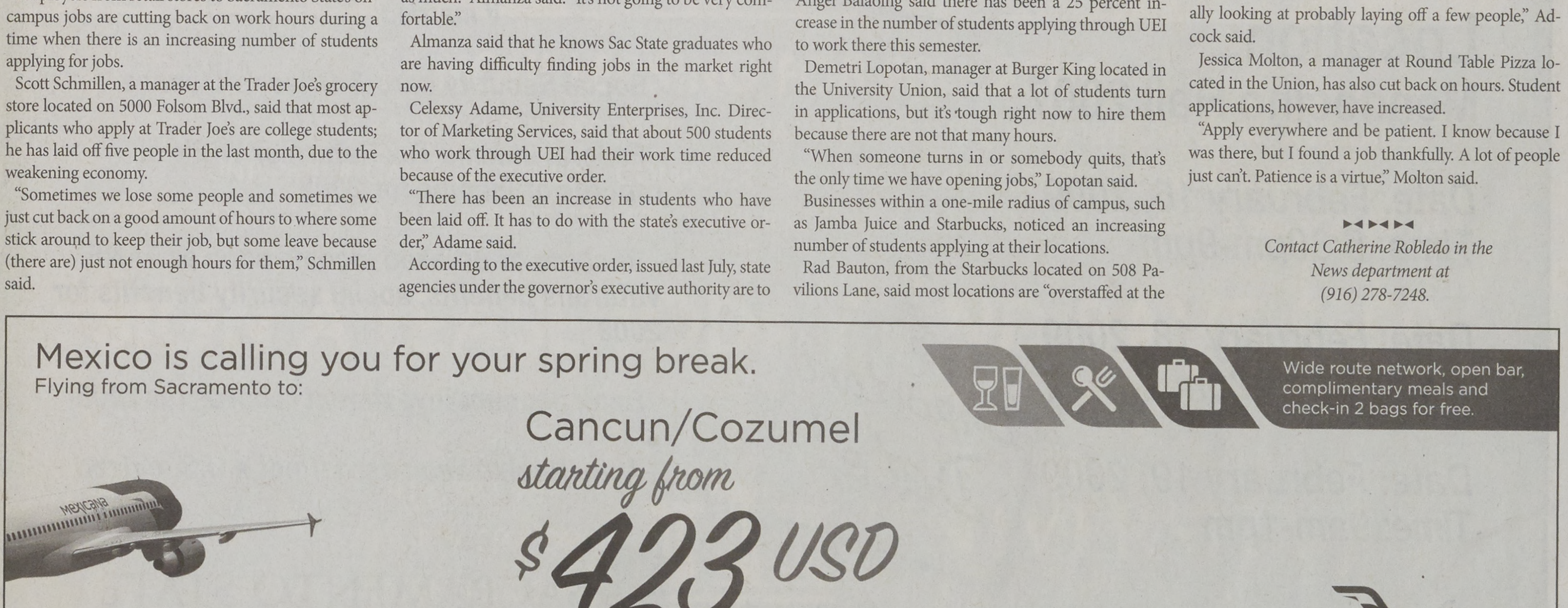
John Adcock, manager of Java City located on campus, said that there hasn't been an increase in students applying, and it's been about the same this semester.

"We have cut back on 60-70 hours, and we are actually looking at probably laying off a few people," Adcock said.

Jessica Molton, a manager at Round Table Pizza located in the Union, has also cut back on hours. Student applications, however, have increased.

"Apply everywhere and be patient. I know because I was there, but I found a job thankfully. A lot of people just can't. Patience is a virtue," Molton said.

Contact Catherine Robledo in the News department at (916) 278-7248.


Mexico is calling you for your spring break.
Flying from Sacramento to:
Cancun/Cozumel
starting from
$423 USD
Round trip
Wide route network, open bar, complimentary meals and check-in 2 bags for free.
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Chinese New Year arrives

By **Crystal Kirk**
ckirk@statehornet.com

Sacramento State will ring in the year of the ox with traditional Chinese lion dances, painting exhibits and martial arts.

The Chinese New Year Culture Association, in partnership with the university, will celebrate the holiday this Saturday.

The festival is the largest in the greater Sacramento area and will showcase a traditional Chinese Lion Dance as well as a Chinese Zodiac Display.

"This is a one-of-a-kind event," said organizer Ming Shyong Yang. "Most Chinese New Year celebrations just have a parade, but we have 14 diverse Chinese groups working together to make something special."

This year the event will celebrate the traits of people born in the year of the ox which stands for hard-working and loyal. The theme is "one whole, one heart."

Asian studies professor Richard Shek said that historically the Chinese are an agrarian society.

"The New Year's celebration signifies the first awakening of spring and the return to warmth," Shek said. "It marks the time to roll up our sleeves and begin working the land again."

The Union will be filled with martial arts demonstrations, dance performances, vendor booths and children's games from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Ballroom Dancing will take place from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Attendees will be able to get health care consultations from Chinese alternative medicine practitioners, and view painting and photography exhibits.

The Chinese New Year Culture Association was formed in 1997 with the primary objective of promoting Chinese culture.

Sac State has hosted the celebrations for the last six years. General admission is $5; children 12 and under get in for $1.

▸◂ ▸◂ ▸◂

Contact Crystal Kirk in the News department at (916) 278-7248.

CHINESE ZODIAC SIGNS

CHINESE YEAR OF THE RABBIT 1927 1939 1951 1963 1975 1987 1999
PEOPLE BORN IN THIS YEAR ARE ARTICULATE AND AMBITIOUS.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE DRAGON 1928 1940 1952 1964 1976 1988 2000
DRAGONS TEND TO BE POPULAR INDIVIDUALS.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE SNAKE 1929 1941 1953 1965 1977 1989 2001
RICH IN WISDOM AND CHARM.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE HORSE 1930 1942 1954 1966 1978 1990 2002
PEOPLE BORN IN THE YEAR OF THE HORSE ARE POPULAR.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE SHEEP/GOAT 1931 1943 1955 1967 1979 1991 2003
PEOPLE BORN IN THIS ZODIAC YEAR ARE ELEGANT.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE MONKEY 1932 1944 1956 1968 1980 1992 2004
PEOPLE BORN UNDER THIS ZODIAC ARE VERY INTELLIGENT.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER 1933 1945 1957 1969 1981 1993 2005
THE ROOSTER IS A HARD WORKER; SHREWD AND DEFINITE.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE DOG 1934 1946 1958 1970 1982
THE DOG POSSESS THE BEST TRAITS OF HUMAN NATURE.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE BOAR 1935 1947 1959 1971 1983 1995 2007
PEOPLE BORN IN THIS CHINESE ZODIAC SIGN ARE GRACIOUS.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE RAT 1924 1936 1948 1960 1972 1984 1996 2008
THE RAT IS ONE OF THE MOST INDUSTRIOUS.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE OX 1925 1937 1949 1961 1973 1985
PEOPLE BORN IN THE YEAR OF THE OX ARE SELF-ASSURED.

CHINESE YEAR OF THE TIGER 1938 1950 1962 1974 1986
TIGERS ARE BY TURNS FASCINATING AND EXASPERATING.

Come Worship With Us!

A Directory of Sacramento Churches

Newman Catholic Community Masses
Sunday: 9am - 10:30am
Student Mass: 7:30pm
Mass/Dinner/Activities for students:
Wednesday: 6:30pm
5900 Newman Court
Sacramento, CA 95819
916.454.4188

Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church
6045 Carmelia Avenue - Right across the street from Sac State
Saturday Morning:
Worship service at 11:00am
FREE PARKING on school days for Sac State students - register at our office for a free permit

Visit our website at:
www.SacCampusHope.com
Contact Pastor Steve Alred at:
916.457.6511 x109

Fremont Presbyterian Church
Wednesdays:
7 pm - Collage/20 somthing group
Sundays:
9 am - Classic Worship
10 am - Education Hour
11 am - Modern Worship
5770 Carlson Drive • Sacramento, CA 95819
(corner of "H" and Carlson, near CSUS)
916.452.7132
Make New Friends and Worship God!

Advertise Your Church Services: (916) 278-5587

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Date: February 18, 2009
Time: 10am-2pm

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Stimulus: Competitive, educated workforce to energize economy

"History has shown us that the best way to energize an economy is to produce a talented and competitive workforce."

Alexander Gonzalez, president of Sacramento State

Continued | page A1

students the skills they need to find jobs after graduation.

"If you really want to strengthen the economy," Gonzalez said. "You need an educated workforce."

Susan Peters, the Sacramento County Supervisor representing District 3, proposed other stimulus projects, including several road maintenance projects.

Included in her proposals was a $35 million project to expand Hazel Avenue; a $52 million project to update the Highway 50 interchange at Watt Ave.; and a $16 million in general road maintenance county-wide.

Peters estimated the projects would create approximately 10,000 jobs.

Another project Peters presented was phase two of the Natomas Levee Project, which will update and secure Sacramento's levees. She said that the $90 million project would fix the most vulnerable levees in north Natomas.

Johnson added that the flood protection project would create more than 2,000 jobs.

Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce President Matt Mahood said that thousands of projects have been proposed but information on other projects will be released as funding from the federal stimulus package is allocated and dispersed.

Manhood said that a full list of the proposed projects would not be released now because "we don't know what the final projects will be."

Gonzalez said that all of these stimulus projects will inevitably create jobs for graduating students.

"Our students are everywhere," Gonzalez said. "Look at construction management majors; these will be students who will be working on these projects."

"History has shown us that the best way to energize an economy is to produce a talented and competitive workforce." Gonzalez hopes that the federal stimulus package will represent that sentiment.

▸◂ ▸◂ ▸◂

Contact Michael Mette in the News department at (916) 278-7248.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Sac State President Alexander Gonzalez spoke to local leaders about proposed projects for federal stimulus funds in West Sacramento.

Photos by Michael Perry State Hornet

Hands: Goal is to mail 1 million red hands to the United Nations

Graphic by Martin Wood State Hornet

Continued | page A1

Multi-Cultural Center in the Library, while a documentary about child soldiers was shown inside the center at two different times.

About 80 people painted and stamped their hands and the letters will be posted in the government department until Tuesday, after which they will join other red hand letters sent in from around the globe. All of the letters will eventually end up at the United Nations office by Friday, with a letter explaining the campaign.

"I think that this is showing people on campus that simple actions can have international impacts," said event organizer Elizabeth Martinez, junior international affairs major.

"People often exaggerate the amount of work it takes to do one of these campaigns," she said.

The goal is to have 1 million red-handed letters sent in to the U.N.

In 1998, the U.N. made it a war crime to have anyone in the national military under the age of 15. In May, 2000, it issued an optional protocol to raise the age to 18.

According to Human Rights Watch, as of 2007, there are an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 active child soldiers involved in armed conflicts through either governmental forces or rebel groups. The documentary focuses on the most well known conflict involving a rebel force in Northern Uganda called the Lord's Resistance Army.

Following the screening, Darryl Freeman, a graduate student in the government department, discussed multiple issues. He spoke about children being abducted and forced into the army.

Audience members were asked how to address these issues. Ashley Burton, a sophomore social science major, suggested economic reform and sustainable development, by donating things, such as sewing machines, instead of money.

Martinez and Kristina Victor, a graduate student and the director of the Odyssey Mentor Program decided to host the event to raise awareness on campus.

"The point of this event is not to depress, but to empower and activate change," Martinez said. "Give it a shot. You still have a voice, and it can be heard if you try."

▸◂ ▸◂ ▸◂

Contact Anne Morrison in the News department at (916) 278-7248.

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EDITORIAL

Evaluation system needs reboot

It was a big mistake for Sacramento State to be among the universities to switch its student administration system in fall 2007. Now, graduating students are paying the price.

The California State University system has implemented Common Management Systems (CMS) – the name given to our iteration of the PeopleSoft Human Resources, Financials and Student Administration (Campus Solutions) software. CMS runs MySacState, formerly known as CasperWeb.

While CMS runs everything from payroll to academic grades, it is largely to blame for the degree evaluations that are still not completed for those students who intend to graduate at the end of this semester.

It is every student's responsibility to ensure that he or she meets all graduation criteria: 120 units for the bachelor's degree, 51 units of general education, major units, foreign language, passing of the Writing Proficiency Exam, a Writing Intensive course, upper-division and residence requirements. However, it is, without a doubt, easy for students to miscalculate their graduation status because there are endless requirements to monitor and keep up with.

For this very reason, we have 12 degree evaluators who work diligently every year to perform 5,000 degree evaluations and checkouts. We, as students, rely on these individuals to assess our academic career here at Sac State to give us the approval – or disapproval under unfortunate circumstances – to graduate.

Ed Mills, associate vice president for Student Affairs, Enrollment and Student Support, said he would like to hire additional staff members at the degree evaluation office, but our ailing economy and budget cuts make this unfeasible.

Mills said that his goal is to have the degree evaluations completed and distributed back to students prior to their registering for their last-semester classes. Today, the evaluations are given back to students during their last semester; this is a big issue because it does not give students enough time to make necessary adjustments to their schedule that would enable them to graduate "on time." The staff shortage makes it almost impossible for the degree evaluators to be finished with the evaluations prior to registration for classes.

The degree evaluation process is much slower with CMS than it was with our old system, Mills said. When these students are finding out during what they regard is their last semester here at Sac State that they are in fact short on units or were unaware of other requirements, this is indeed a problem. The question that the university seems to never find an answer to is: How can it make the graduation process easier for students?

Since our university's financial crisis is beyond the administration's control – after all, the state can't even control its own money – Mills is in the process of creating a registrar's office website that, hopefully, will put structure in place so that the graduation process is easier for students. The website is intended to create an avenue by which students can refer to for all general information regarding graduation. This is supposed to be different than our current system; all information would be immediately available without having to search frantically for it, as our current system makes us do.

The State Hornet applauds Mills for his strong efforts during this stressful time for many graduating seniors, but is concerned that the new website will only contain general information and therefore won't be personalized enough. What this university needs is one place – and one place only – to go to for information. The Hornet doesn't want students to have to log onto MySacState again if they can help it.

Until our university can afford to hire more degree evaluators and replace MySacState with a more efficient website, the Hornet looks forward to what Mills has in store for the future of our graduating seniors.

For now, we all have to take responsibility for our education path by reaching out to our advisers at the Academic Advising Center and major departments.

LAST-DITCH EFFORT

BLECH! THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE THAN COLD COFFEE.
REALLY? NOT EVEN MASS GENOCIDE?
IT'S AN EXPRESSION, MAX.
I MEAN, WHEN YOU THINK OF THE KHMER ROUGE ALONE...
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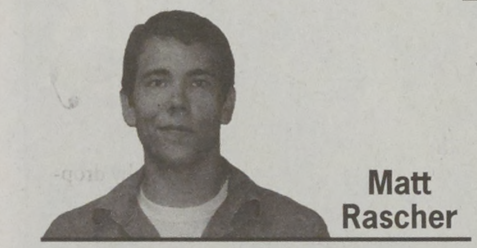
Follow the misadventures of students Jake, Max, Steve and the Professor as they navigate their way through college life.

Time to require licenses for people to procreate



Matt Rascher

Before I could legally drive I had to get a driver's license. Before I can own a gun I'd have to pass a safety test and a background check. If I ever wanted to go hunting with that gun, I'd need a hunting license. If I wanted to have a child, I'd need... oh, well I actually wouldn't need a license then. I wouldn't have to prove to anyone that I am ready or mature enough to help create a life. To get that new gun though...

It makes sense to test people to see if they can handle the responsibility of driving a car or owning a gun and being intelligent enough to safely use that gun. We do that to make sure whoever is driving that car or firing that gun knows what they're doing. So why do we put so much emphasis on these privileges and so little on potential parents? Does the quality of our kids' parents really matter less than being able to drive your dad's old Buick LeSabre?

The problem today is that people think it is a right to have children, that somewhere hidden in the Constitution we are guaranteed the ability to procreate. Well I am sorry to burst your bubble, but it's not there, and a lot of you out there should not be passing on your genes. That doesn't mean you're bad people, it just means that for one reason or another you are unfit to raise a child.

Right now I am one of those people as well; I don't have the financial capability or the maturity to give a child everything he or she needs.

According to the Department of Agriculture, which determines the amount it will cost to raise a child from birth to the age of 17, popping out a little bundle of joy will run you somewhere in the neighborhood of $500,000. That can be broken down into smaller sums as well, say for instance clothing. Over the span of those 17 years, a child's clothing alone will cost you about $17,000.

What I propose to fix this dilemma is that hopeful parents be required to pass a wide-ranging test before allowing them to bear children. This process would include a look into your financial means as well as a credit check. A behavioral test would also be included to quiz you on various child raising scenarios. If you passed everything, you would receive your license and you could be off on your merry baby-making way. However, if you failed it and were caught illegally in the possession of a child you would have 6 months to a year depending on the situation to take or re-take the test. Fail and your child would be taken into foster care.

Of course the plan would go more in-depth than stated here, but this is the way we have to start thinking. If you automatically assume that everyone inherently has the right to bear children just look at Nadya Suleman, queen of in vitro fertilization. She is the proud parent of this country's longest living octuplets and is now the proud mother of 14 children in all. Fourteen is enough to start your own basketball team. Her own mom insists she's been obsessed with having kids since high school, saying in a recent article by the Associated Press, "Instead of becoming a kindergarten teacher or something, she started having them, but not the normal way."

"This woman could not comprehend the ramifications of having eight children of the same age at the same time," said Judith Horowitz, a psychologist and author who works with couples on fertility issues. "After Pampers stops delivering the free diapers, then what?"

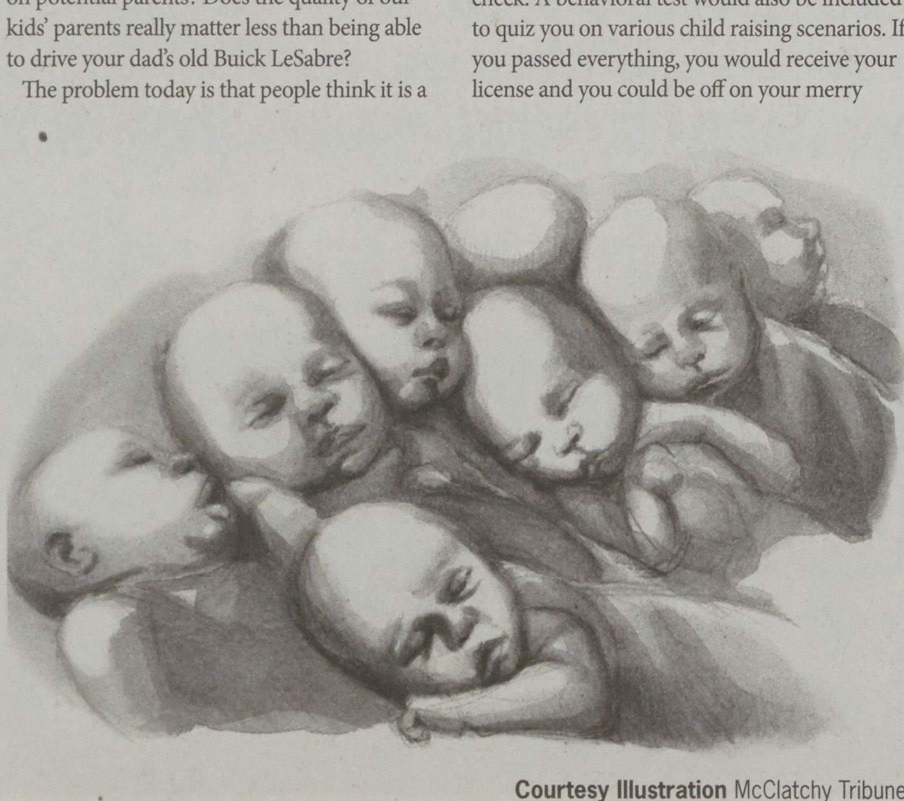
Let's see if she would even get to that concern with a sample question from the proposed test: If you have six children, no spouse and no discernible income, what should your next logical step be?

A. Stop having kids
B. Start adopting more kids
C. Buy stock in a fertility treatment company of your choice
D. Get pumped full of embryos so you can have eight more

If you are inspired to start your own support group for children with insane parents, then by all means chose D. If, however, you even remotely care about the well-being and future of your children then I suggest choosing A. Don't worry too much though, this test isn't real. I mean it's not like you're trying to become a pilot or something important like that.

* * *

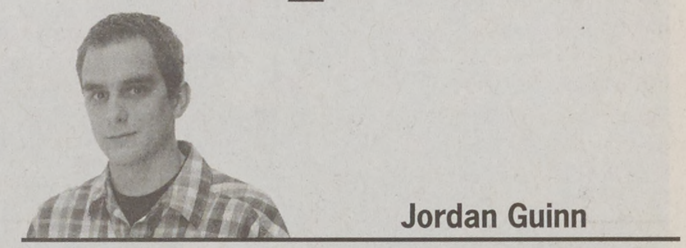
Contact Matt Rascher in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.



Courtesy Illustration McClatchy Tribune

CYNIC'S CORNER

Help ASI



Jordan Guinn

Associated Students Inc.'s heart is in the right place. The group is our greatest ally in battling against looming fee increases during our state's ongoing financial ruin. It does its best to fight our battles for us and keep us entertained as well.

But how effective is the organization? Considering a vast majority of students do not participate in the elections, attend the group's open meetings or even recognize their representatives, common sense would scream that the group is failing.

However, ASI's fingerprints are all over this campus. The agency is responsible for maintaining the Children's Center, KSSU radio, the Aquatic Center and PEAK Adventures.

Chances are you have participated in an ASI event or sat next to a board member in one of your classes without even knowing it.

While that doesn't say a lot about your abilities of observation or deduction, it says even less about ASI's promotional abilities.

This is not said in an attempt to be callous or cruel to ASI; it's simply the truth.

Since it is in a position of authority, it's easy to expect a lot from ASI. Students don't think twice about sitting back and waiting for everything to just be handed to them. After all, it's how they usually act in every other aspect of life.

We forget that ASI representatives are students as well. They have to attend to students' needs while still staying on top of homework, midterms and finals.

On the bright side, members of ASI know they are human.

Andres Perez is the director of Arts and Letters for ASI. In a podcast with The Hornet recorded last week, Perez said that ASI was "misusing" students' money by having overlapping marketing programs that intend to generate student interest in the organization.

He is not the only ASI board member who feels the group is not operating as efficiently as possible.

Felix Barbara, vice president of University Affairs, said in an e-mail to his fellow board members that "we are rushed into approving large amounts of money for projects because we have not planned ahead."

This should be a topic of significant intrigue among students on campus, but it's not.

There can only be one reason that the vast majority of students don't know more about their representatives or ASI itself: They don't care.

A rational argument could be made that students see Sacramento State as either a safety school, a springboard to a University of California college or a means to an end in the process of getting a college degree. While there are people on campus who are proud of their school, most of the population has trouble regularly attending class and can't wait to leave.

It's a sad reality, but it's the situation ASI has to work with.

With that being said, ASI needs to be working as hard as possible to get students interested in the upcoming election.

It's ridiculous to suggest that getting students involved in a campus election will solve all our problems, but motivating students to throw their hat into the ring or taking the two minutes to cast their electronic ballots can't possibly hurt.

Executive Vice President Roberto Torres meets with state legislators and lobbies on our behalf, but he needs your help.

"We can only put so much effort in to fighting fee increases, that's where we say we need the students to be more involved," Torres said.

This year can't be like previous ones, in which multiple positions have no candidates even running, and there are barely enough votes cast to make the election valid.

Getting more than 10 percent, roughly 3,000 students, to vote would be a major achievement.

But they won't get it. They won't even come close. I will bet body parts that the voter turnout in the upcoming elections will top out at 8 percent, a generous estimate on my part.

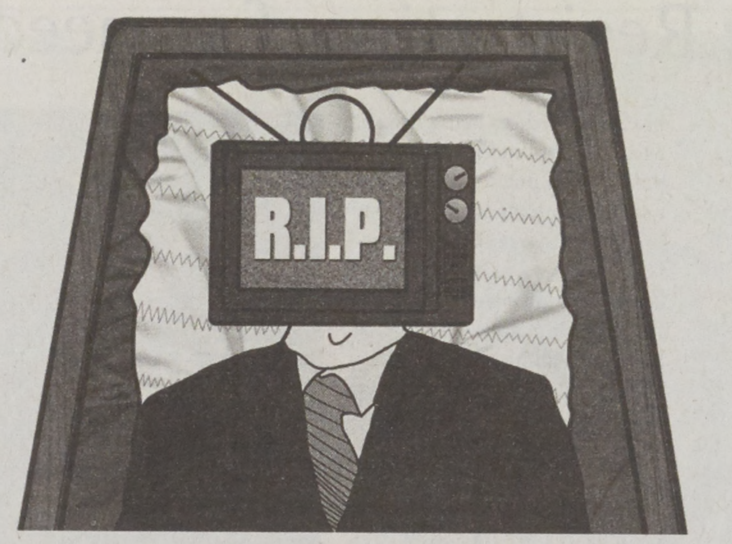
ASI means well. But they have been doing it all alone for far too long. Either you or your parents shell out more than $120 every semester to operate ASI and its programs. Even if you couldn't care less about campus government or school pride, you should care where your money goes.

* * *

Contact Jordan Guinn in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

Ready, set, no switch

Kyle Kershner



Martin Wood State Hornet

Feb. 17, 2009. This is the date that we've been waiting for. We've seen commercials for over a year now, telling us to "get ready" for this big change.

I'm talking about the switch to digital television. As it stands, while we had been given plenty of notice, we're going to have to wait a few more months.

On Jan. 26, the Senate voted unanimously to postpone the shutdown of analog TV. The House of Representatives followed the Senate's lead and voted 264-158 on Feb. 4, to delay the transition.

This is getting ridiculous. In a case like this, who is to blame?

The Obama administration and the Democrats in Congress claim that the previous administration botched efforts to get everyone prepared for the switch. They said poor, rural and minority Americans were not adequately ready for the switch.

It makes sense now to delay the switch, but it should have never gotten to this point in the first place.

The Nielsen Company, which tracks television viewing trends, has estimated that more than 6.5 million U.S. households that use analog TV sets still aren't ready.

In response to the delay, The National Telecommunications and Information Administration will send out new coupons for the converter boxes. However, it now has more than 3.7 million coupon requests on a wait list.

Those on the wait list would not have received their coupons before Feb. 17, rendering the coupons worthless had Congress not postponed the switch.

I just don't get it. How long has the federal government had to prepare for the switch? What has (or hasn't) it been doing the past year, allowing this to happen?

It sounds like one of those things where the government finally comes up with a really good idea and gets excited about it, but when it comes down to actually ironing out the fine points and delivering on these promises, government officials realize they're in over their heads.

While the delay in the switch may be better in the grand scheme of things, there are some negative aspects as well.

Opponents of the delay said it could confuse customers and create added costs for TV stations that will continue to broadcast in both digital and analog signals.

The Consumer Electronics Association said a delay may result in a shortage of converter boxes that translate digital signals back to analog signals for older TVs.

Translation: Buy a new TV.

The switch is necessary in the first place because it will "free up parts of the valuable broadcast spectrum for public safety communications," such as police, fire departments and rescue squads, according to the Digital TV website.

So now we're going to have more commercials telling everyone to "get ready" for the big switch to digital TV on June 12. Hopefully by then everything will be sorted out, and we won't have to hear about this debacle ever again.

⋈ ⋈ ⋈

Contact Kyle Kershner in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

STATE HORNET OPINION ONLINE

VIDEO

GOOD COP, BAD COP
State Hornet Opinion Police Lt. Jordan Guinn and Det. Todd Wilson review case files of recent headline news.

STUDENT REACTION
Staff writer Vanessa Guerrero asks Sacramento State students whether they had trouble getting classes this semester.

AT THE TABLE - PODCAST

ASI's Executive Vice President Roberto Torres and Director of Arts and Letters Andres Perez debate the future of ASI.

OSCAR GRANT SHOOTING

Riots not the answer

Leidhra Johnson

Sacramento band Trash Talk came together with other bands, including Bay Area duo, Two Gallants on Sunday to host a benefit show in Berkeley for the family of Oscar Grant.

Grant was shot and killed on New Year's Day at the Fruitvale BART station in Oakland. BART police officer Johannes Mehserle has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Cell phone videos show that Grant was unarmed and facedown on the ground when shot in the back.

Mehserle's attorney Michael Rains said the officer was reaching for his Taser when he accidentally pulled his service gun instead, according to the Associated Press on Jan. 31.

Whether the shooting was intentional or accidental, it has caused an extreme public outcry.

"It's a sign. Yeah, we have a man of color in the white house. Yeah, things are changing. But America is still a messed up place. It's still the same place it always has been. Everyone just looks the other way," said Spencer Pollard, Trash Talk's bassist.

Demonstrators crowded the Fruitvale BART station on Jan. 7, as a sign of protest.

Unfortunately, a protest that could have been peaceful and still meaningful turned violent and destructive.

Several different buildings were vandalized that night. Rioters set cars ablaze and smashed windows of locally owned businesses such as Creative African Braids.

"I feel like Oakland should make some noise. This is how we need to fight back. It's for the murder of a black male," said Nia Sykes, one of the protestors, in the Jan. 8, issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

However, when asked how she felt about the smashed windows of a shop owned by a local black female, Sykes, according to the article, displayed little sympathy.

When protesting turns to rioting, the messages of the fight can get lost among the destruction.

Although previous protests turned to violent riots, the benefit show displayed a more diplomatic form of activism.

Trash Talk and the other bands made their opinions clear without causing more damage. The bands worked to raise money for a hurt family while protesting against what appears to have been an unwarranted murder.

"The incident actually didn't get a whole lot of media coverage, so this is a way of raising awareness about it as well as helping out Oscar's family," Pollard said.

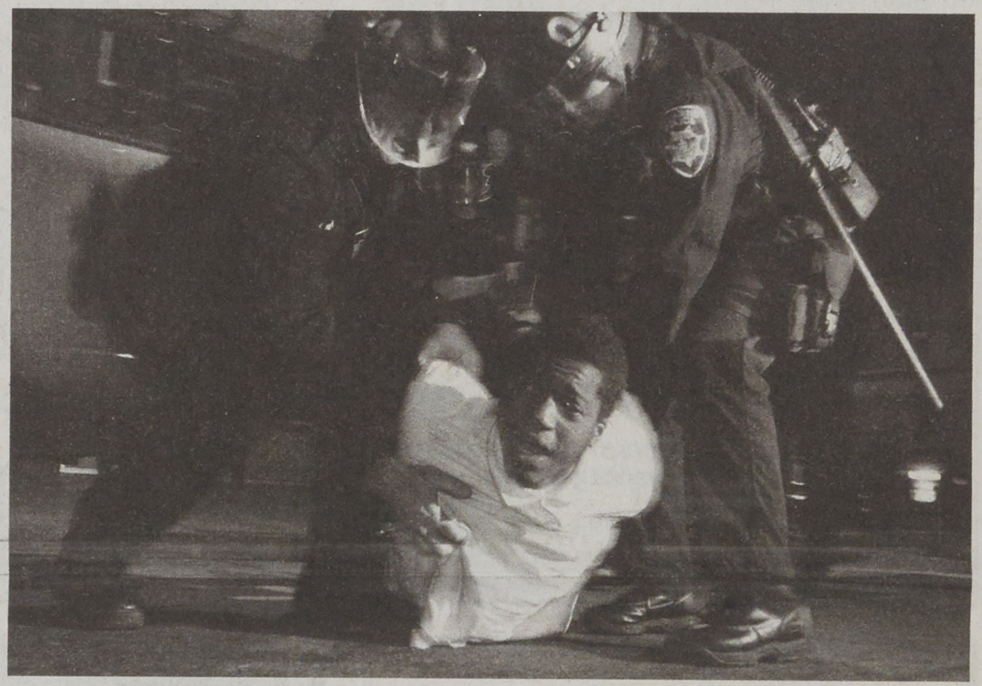
While it is important to fight against injustices such as police brutality, it is also important not to cause further destruction.

In times like these, enough pain has already been endured. Violence and rioting will not help to fix the situation.

Nonviolent protests are much more effective than demonstrations of vengeance and destruction.

⋈ ⋈ ⋈

Contact Leidhra Johnson in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.



Courtesy Photo McClatchy Tribune

Police take a protester into custody along Fourteenth Street in Oakland during a demonstration Jan. 7 against the fatal BART police shooting of Oscar Grant III on New Year's.

CSU should focus on education, not expediency

David Loret de Mola

Martin Wood State Hornet

Associated Students Inc. and the California State Student Association are both challenging an executive order that would make major changes to the California State University class retake policy.

The order, which is part of the CSU's "Facilitating Graduation Initiative," would restrict which classes students are allowed to retake to only those in which they received less than a C- grade.

Erik Fallis, a media relations specialist for the CSU, said the goal of the initiative is to "remove some of the impediments students face on the road to graduation."

And yet, by not allowing students to repeat classes where they received Cs, the CSU is placing a heavy burden on students who want to continue their education after earning a bachelor's degree.

The four or five years we spend in college is a long time, and a lot of personal growth can take place during our years in the university system. Slackers can turn into exceptional students and then be left with no way of making up for their past mistakes. Students whose lives get complicated in the middle of a school year could have their future career hopes negated by the CSU's new policy. Nontraditional students, who have to work or take care of a family while attending classes, could be punished for the responsibilities they have outside of school.

"If the load of your schedule is too heavy, lighten the load by dropping the course prior to the deadline," Fallis said.

According to Sacramento State's Public Affairs website, the cost of taking seven or more units is $1,927 per semester; taking six units or less costs $1,288 per semester.

Nontraditional students, by lightening their course load, would spend a longer time in school than traditional students.

But there is an honest intent to CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed's executive order. It aims at lowering the amount of money California's government spends on students who retake classes. Both ASI and CSSA sympathize with the economic struggle that California is engaged in.

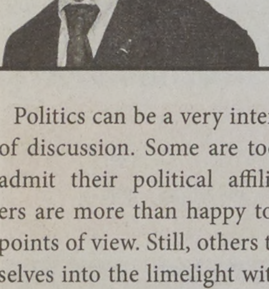
But both groups also have the foresight to see that restricting students' ability to retake classes could greatly affect their ability to get into graduate-level programs.

With this order, CSU seems to be focusing on the short term goal of "facilitating graduation" when it should be concentrating on real education.

⋈ ⋈ ⋈

Contact David Loret de Mola in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

Politics is a dirty game, but it should not be this dirty



Benjamin Schilter

Politics can be a very interesting topic of discussion. Some are too bashful to admit their political affiliation. Others are more than happy to share their points of view. Still, others thrust themselves into the limelight with no fear of retribution, even if they end up getting manhandled in the general elections.

But there are those who are so incensed by the other point of view that they use the cover of darkness to further their aims.

Two recent episodes of vandalism against the Sacramento State College Democrats' information booth in the Library quad last week could very well be argued as a form of free speech… at least, the FIRST instance could be. After the booth was vandalized for the second time in three days, College Democrats' President Melissa Hurtado had another term to describe it: "a hate crime."

Boxes were strewn about, signs were ripped down and supplies were stolen. What remained after the first episode was a statement written on a club flyer made to read like this: "Because we all love equality. BUT HATE AMERICA…"

Really?

It's one thing to burn the flag, lodge sit-ins at your representative's office, glue your candidate's posters next to those of someone else and listen only to voices that support your point of view. It's another thing entirely to use the cover of darkness to lash out against those dissenting voices and not own up to those actions.

In Santa Cruz on Election Day, two polling stations had their doors glued shut and two campaign offices had their windows smashed in, according to the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

The Sentinel reported both polling locations had graffiti, including some denouncing both presidential candidates and the voting process. Also featured was a spray painted capital A with a circle around it. Volunteers were able to get the glue out of the doors and voting proceeded without a hitch.

"We're on our feet. This is a historic day that we have been working on for months," said Delilah Veladez, Santa Cruz Democratic campaign coordinator. "This hasn't affected us."

Veladez told The Sentinel that the vandalism was "an affront to democracy, to liberty and all the things we are celebrating today."

After the second vandalism incident, Hurtado said she assumed the booth was targeted because of the College Democrats' progressive point of view. She was saddened that someone would attack them twice and said everyone should "stand up against this type of hate."

"We don't hate on anyone else, we don't target on anyone else," Hurtado said. "We're open to debate, we're open to a civil manner; there's no need for this."

America is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. It's in our anthem. It's in our national psyche. These actions are a complete contradiction to those principles.

Campus political organizations stand up for their views and are more than willing to hear out the other side, even if at times they don't agree with each other.

At least they own up to their actions.

These vandals went against the very spirit of American politics by coming out of the shadows to strike, only to retreat before the smoke clears.

So, who really hates America?

⋈ ⋈ ⋈

Contact Benjamin R. Schilter in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

ASI: New order lacks research, Snyder says

Continued | page A1

position.

The purpose of the executive order was to accelerate students toward graduation and avoid wasteful spending. Blackburn said that wasteful spending includes repeating courses.

"They're spending taxpayer money twice," Blackburn said. "A lot of us would want to improve our GPA. I know I would have."

Blackburn said that students will be able to graduate just fine if they make C grades.

"I don't want to sound harsh," he said. "The university is not here to improve students' GPA."

Both CSSA and ASI have stated that they understand the reasoning behind the executive order, but proclaim that not enough research was done in the creation process.

"They didn't include us in the process," Snyder said. "If it's really going to save money, how much money is it going to save? Is it worth it to decrease a student's chance at success?"

Some students across campus share the same sentiment of opposition.

Senior occupational health science major Brittany Grinnell wants to attend graduate school at the University of California, San Francisco, but her C in physiology might not make the cut.

"I was going to retake it over again," Grinnell said. "I guess I can't."

Junior social work major Kym Hein has never received a grade lower than a B, but still sees a problem with the new course repetition policy.

"I don't understand why they wouldn't allow it," Hein said. "I find that interesting, if the students do better, it's better for the university. The order seems counterproductive."

Faculty Senate Chairman Bruce Bikle said that the executive order might have been passed in order to curb grade inflation.

"In today's society, everyone has to be better than average," Bikle said. "There is a body of thought that a C is a bad grade. A C is average; average isn't bad."

The Faculty Senate has not yet discussed the executive order, but Bikle plans on bringing the issue up in the future.

"If there is a groundswell of opposition by the faculty," he said. "We will go to Long Beach and try to change the policy."

According to Sac State's Registrar's Office, the campus enrollment system has not been updated to follow through with the executive order. Students can retake classes with above C grades until the system is updated.

The Registrar's Office had no information on when the system will be updated.

* * *

Contact Michael Mette in the News department at (916) 278-7248.

> **"The clickers provide students the ability to answer questions with anonymity, so that they don't get embarrassed."**
>
> **Jeffrey Mack,** Sacramento State chemistry professor

Clicker: Registration, fees needed for use

Continued | page A1

quired class supplies.

Most clickers can cost anywhere between $20 and $30 upfront and require an additional online registration fee of about $15 per semester. The costs vary for each brand of clicker used. If a student pays $43 upfront to register a clicker, the student can use the clicker for an unlimited amount of semesters, or they can wait until they accumulate $45 in registration fees to receive the same privilege. Each online registration fee covers an entire semester of clicker usage, and an unlimited amount of classes as long as the instructors are assigning the same brand of clicker.

Student reactions to the price of the clicker vary according to how many books the instructors require for each class.

Freshman Ethan Perez has used the clickers twice since the start of the semester.

"The $13 online registration fee is kind of a downside," Perez said.

However, sophomore math major Brandon Yragni said he did not complain about its price and registration fee because "compared to my calculus class's $180 textbook, this is all I have to pay for and I'm cool with that."

Currently there are four brands of clickers being used at Sac State, and neither are compatible with one another. Thus, a student might be forced to pay for two clickers and two registrations fees or more in one semester, a problem the Center for Teaching and Learning at Sac State will be addressing.

The Center for Teaching and Learning is currently promoting one brand of clicker, the CPS Gen, and is trying to universalize this model clicker on campus by offering demonstrations, trainings and technical support.

The clickers are mainly used by the chemistry, philosophy and criminal justice departments. Each of the 11 instructors using the clickers is responsible for managing more than 110 students spread over several sections.

Chemistry professor Jeffrey Mack uses the clicker in two sections of General Chemistry I with more than 100 students in each section.

Mack said the clickers allow him to take attendance, track student progress and engage students who might otherwise remain silent.

"The clickers provide students the ability to answer questions with anonymity, so that they don't get embarrassed," Mack said.

Jane E. Caldwell, in her research paper, "Clickers in the Large Classroom: Current Research and Best-Practice Tips," agreed that the idea of anonymity is important in the classroom.

Caldwell found that many instructors adopt the clicker to help passive students become more engaged, and to combat one-way communication during lectures. Caldwell also found that most instructors use the clickers to keep students from losing concentration.

Mack gives students six questions in each class period and tracks student progress based on the answers.

"[Clickers] give me feedback so that I can catch at-risk students early," Mack said.

Junior biology major Erika Pearce said she enjoys using the clickers in her chemistry class, but only uses it in that one class.

"It's a good way to get you to pay attention," she said.

* * *

Contact David Gutierrez in the News department at (916) 278-7248.

Claire Padgett State Hornet

Most clickers can cost anywhere between $20 and $30 upfront and require an additional online registration fee.

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THESTATEHORNET SPORTS
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February 11, Wednesday

Shannon Schureman State Hornet

Junior Erika Edwards tries for a shot against Eastern Washington during Thursday's game. Tied for fourth in the Big Sky, Sacramento State dukes it out with six other teams for a tournament berth.

'Dogfight' for Big Sky tourney

By Justin Tejada
jtejada@statehornet.com

The Sacramento State women's basketball team's season may be winding down to the last few games, but the season is only starting to heat up. The Big Sky Tournament starts March 12 and Sac State is currently tied for fourth in conference standings along with Northern Arizona, Eastern Washington and Northern Colorado. Each team is sitting at 4-6 in the conference.

Portland State (9-1) and Montana State (8-1) currently lead the Big Sky at a safe and distant first and second, but with Idaho State in third at 4-5 and with Montana and Weber State sitting tied for eighth at 3-6 each, the last few spots for conference play are still up for grabs.

Head coach Dan Muscatell describes the last few games as a "seven-way dogfight" for the last spots in the Big Sky Tournament. He said that the last seven teams in conference play are separated by only one and a half games; Sac State will play five of those teams in its last six games.

The entire season is riding on these last few games, and while the pressure to win is high, Muscatell thinks differently.

"It really helps us and focuses us because we need to take one game at a time," he said.

He said that although it is cliché to say that the team is out win as many games as possible, it's a fact that a single loss or victory can make or break the team's chances at a berth in the Big Sky.

Despite yielding a 6-17 overall season so far, Muscatell said the team is not yet out of the picture because it has improved from every single game. He said what has been shown so far is not yet the plateau of the team's performance.

"The team has continued to grow all the time," he said. "Individually and collectively."

Muscatell said the key to keeping the team as competitive as it has been this season is its impressive work ethic.

Helping the team to success will be players like junior guard/forward Charday Hunt, senior forward/center Atty Boyer and junior forward Erika Edwards. Scoring threat Charday Hunt currently leads the team in scoring and is third in conference at 14.3 points per game. Boyer and Edwards are both in the top ten for rebounds per game at 8.2 and 7, respectively.

The team will be on the road for the next three games. They play Montana on Thursday, Montana State on Saturday and Northern Arizona on Feb. 21.

But what the team is most looking forward to are the last three games of the season, which will be played at home. The team faces off against Idaho State on Feb. 26, Weber State on Feb. 28 and Northern Colorado on March 7. Muscatell said that he and the team are looking forward to the chance to determine their own destiny in their own building at home.

Sac State beats Davis in 9-2 win

Adalto Nascimento State Hornet

Sacramento State ice hockey players celebrate Friday night's victory against UC Davis.

By Dawn Johnson
dking@statehornet.com

The Sacramento State Hockey team dominated U.C. Davis in its last home game of the season Friday night at Skatetown. The tiny Roseville rink was overwhelmed with chanting fans that were never hushed and not disappointed.

Puck control was key in the lopsided win for the Hornets. The Aggies' offense was denied for much of the first period, allowing the home team to build a substantial lead.

Assistant team captain Raymond Gsell scored a hat trick for the Hornets near the end of the final period. The fans congratulated him in the tradition manner of tossing their baseball caps on the ice.

"I just played hard and they went in tonight," Gsell said. "I've never had the hats thrown out for me, so that was pretty cool."

He also had two assists and no penalties for the game.

Late in the game, Davis's Greg DePalma was ejected after a verbal run in with one of the referees.

"He physically assaulted me," DePalma said.

The incident was one of only five penalties for the Aggies, while Sac-

see Hockey| page B3

"It would have been chilling had the ruling gone the other way. The opposite ruling would have meant athletes could have sued their teammates for all sorts of injuries."

Bobby Biggs, Sacramento State head cheerleading coach

Court rules cheer as a contact sport

By Dan King
dking@statehornet.com

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in a decision late last month that cheerleading is a contact sport, and therefore the participants assume the same risks as athletes in sports such as football and basketball.

Brittany L. Noffke, a high school cheerleader at Holmen High School in Holmen, Wis., sued her teammate, Kevin Bakke, the school district and the school's insurer when she suffered a fall in 2004.

The original court ruled she could not sue because neither her teammate nor the school behaved recklessly. The appeals court overturned the first court, saying cheerleading is not a contact sport and therefore she did not have to prove negligence. The Supreme Court overturned the appeals court on Jan. 27, declaring cheerleading a contact sport.

The court ruled: "Bakke was participating in a 'recreational activity' that includes physical contact between persons in a sport involving amateur teams."

They denied Noffke's claim that cheerleading was not a contact sport and said that contact did not have to be between opposing teams, but can be contact between teammates.

"It would have been chilling had the ruling gone the other way," said Bobby Biggs, Sacramento State head cheerleading coach. "The opposite ruling would have meant athletes could have sued their teammates for all sorts of injuries."

The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators were cheered by the Wisconsin decision.

Executive Director Jim Lord wrote, "The implications are that cheerleaders are afforded the same legal protections as athletes in basketball, football, etc. Cheerleaders and their parents then don't have to worry about being sued in the event that a cheerleader makes a mistake during a routine and an injury results."

Lawrence Levine, law professor at McGeorge Law School specializing in torts, said it didn't change, nor would it have changed anything in California had it gone the other way.

"The Wisconsin case has no impact what-

see Cheerleading | page B3

On 2nd Thought.

Phelps busted with a bong

Do you think this will hurt his career? If so, in what way?

Michael Mital

America needs to take a deep breath and give Michael Phelps a break. Only days after a compromising photo of Phelps was taken of the swimmer hitting a bong that would make Cheech and Chong proud, the Olympic governing body, and more importantly his sponsors, have now turned their backs on him. Kellogg's has already dropped Phelps from its sponsorship deal, while the USA Swimming Committee has suspended him from competition for three months without financial support for violating its anti-doping policy. For someone who makes his living on sponsorship deals, this is a major blow which could end up costing him millions. Phelps could also be in some legal hot water, as authorities in South Carolina (where the incident took place) have vowed to press charges against him if they can prove the Olympian smoked marijuana in their jurisdiction.

Sure, he is a role model for kids and marijuana is an illegal substance. The kid is only 23 years-old, doing something that many people his age (whether they admit it or not) have tried before. But to take away his livelihood and tarnish his image is just plain wrong. Just because Phelps might swim as if he has gills doesn't mean that he is not human. Our society is notorious for putting athletes on a pedestal, only to tear them down faster than you can say "Kobe." Remember, Matt Leinart? A football rock star at USC, Leinart was chastised by the media and his own organization for pictures showing the Arizona Cardinals quarterback drinking out of a "beer bong" while partying with college co-eds. Because of those pictures, Leinart's image and status on the team took a nosedive, leading many to wonder if he was fit to be a leader on the football field.

In both these cases we must ask ourselves, "Does the punishment really fit the crime?" After the "bong-gate" fallout, Phelps is now seriously reconsidering whether he wants to compete for Team USA in the 2012 Olympics in London. At this point, can anyone blame him? We need to stop kidding ourselves and realize that these celebrity athletes are just like the rest of us who make mistakes. If we don't learn to forgive, we may never see a supremely gifted athlete like Phelps for a long, long time.

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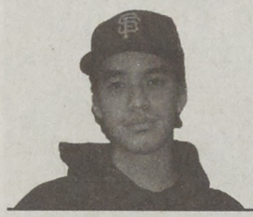

Mitchell Wilson

Apparently with Beijing over, Michael Phelps needed something to do besides laps. Hitting the bong when you have millions of dollars in future endorsements to consider is incredibly foolish. Phelps is the fastest guy in any swimming pool, but he sure isn't the smartest one.

Visa and Speedo are sticking behind Phelps, but he may have just cost himself millions all in one night.

Even though I've never smoked anything, I can't imagine marijuana being so great that I would think, "Should I smoke weed in front of people I don't know? Yes. I should get lit tonight. I'm making millions now; to hell with millions later."

Kellogg's has announced it will not renew its endorsement deal with Phelps that expires at the end of February. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars just to have his face on boxes of Frosted Flakes and now it's gone. Phelps will still be rich, but he still most likely cost himself quite a bit of money.

Is smoking weed the worst crime imaginable? No, and Phelps doesn't have to worry about the U. S. Olympic Committee really coming down too hard on him since marijuana doesn't enhance performance. But having to talk about it over and over in the future will constantly remind sponsors of his latest post-Olympic mistake.

Getting a DUI after his success in the 2004 Athens Games and now getting caught with a pipe should be a red flag to those closest to him. Phelps might want to consider forming an entourage of long-time trusted friends to protect him and his bank account from himself.

All athletes should know they're targets from people looking to get rich quick. After the 2012 Olympics in London are over, Phelps might want to consider just staying home for awhile. He won't have to worry about driving or anybody selling him out. There has to be better things to do after winning gold medals than apologizing and losing sponsorships.

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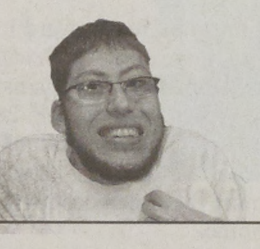


Andrew Hazard

Unfortunately, swimmer Michael Phelps may be in trouble with the law again.

A photo from a British tabloid showed the 14-time gold medal winner inhaling from a marijuana pipe at a party at the University of South Carolina.

This is the second run-in with the law Phelps has had in the last five years.

In 2004, the now-23-year-old was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and was sentenced to 18 months probation. Phelps was only 19 at the time of his sentencing.

He now has a rap sheet, which could one day resemble that of embattled Basketball Hall of Famer Charles Barkley.

Phelps has become a master of the "I have learned from my mistakes" speech. The problem is that it seems like Phelps has not learned anything from his mistakes.

Granted, 23-year-olds are allowed to make mistakes. But when you say time and time again that you want to be a role model for kids, you cannot be a master of the "I have learned from my mistakes" speech.

Here is the key difference between Barkley and Phelps. In 1993, Barkley took part in a controversial Nike commercial in which he said, "I am not a role model."

The purpose of the ad was to encourage parents to be their kids' role models, not athletes. Barkley said from the beginning of his career that he did not want to kids to think he was a role model because he is not.

Phelps could learn a thing or two from Barkley. He cannot be the perfect role model for kids on one hand, and on the other hand be the 23-year-old who likes to party.

All the pressure from being in the spotlight might be getting to Phelps as he may not compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics, contrary to earlier reports directly after the Beijing Olympics.

Phelps' sponsors seem to be as confused of Phelps' future as he is. The Kellogg Company has already said they will not renew Phelps' contract with the company once it has expired.

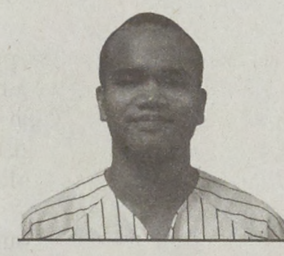
On the other hand, Speedo and Omega has said they will stick with Phelps no matter what the ramifications of the photo are.

You can guarantee there will be ramifications for the photo. Your feeling on the legalization of marijuana is a mute point. The actions that Phelps is accused of taking part in are illegal.

This does not mean Phelps deserves to go to jail or lose his 16 Olympic medals. But he does need to grow up and actually take responsibility for his actions.

It is unclear if Phelps will face criminal charges for the photo, but USA Swimming gave him a slap on the wrist with a three month unpaid suspension from competition.

Win or Go Home: celebrity vs. game



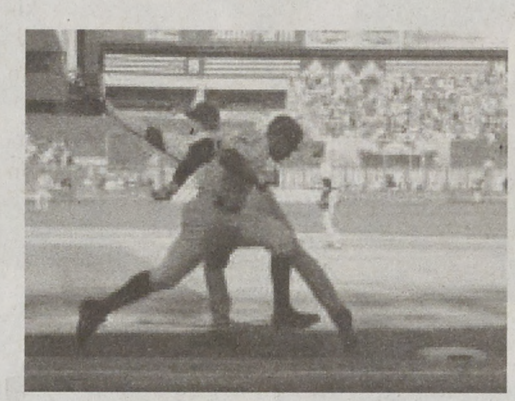
Nick Hunte
Game Editor

Can a top athlete have a fabulous celebrity life and still be on top of his or her game? Of course. Can an athlete also become carried away into the celebrity limelight and let fame have a bigger influence on his or her life than sports altogether? Unfortunately yes, and it seems to be happening all too often nowadays.

Some pro athletes who reach a certain caliber will get noticed by the media and sponsors of all kinds will flock to endorse these star athletes. There's nothing wrong with athletes wanting to advertise a certain product or company and attaining celebrity status, but if the athlete cannot find that right balance between sports and fame, he or she may fighting a downward spiral which may be hard to escape.

Here are some famous national and international athletes who easily gather web search hits and notoriety from their celebrity status but struggle to find that "big win" in their game.

Alex Rodriguez



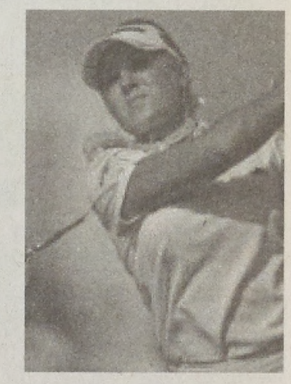
Ah yes, Alex Rodriguez, one of the richest athletes in the world. He has a 10-year, $275 million contract with the New York Yankees. Ever since joining the Yankees in 2004, Rodriguez was named the American League MVP twice (2005 and 2007). Although he had many stellar seasons with the Yanks, he failed to produce in the clutch when the Yankees really needed him to come through during the post-seasons. A-Rod still has a long list of accolades, but the biggest thing missing from that list is a World Series win.

With Rodriguez earning millions of dollars each year just to play, it seemed like everything else did not matter much as long as he was raking in the cash. During his spare time last summer, there were reports that he spent some late nights with Madonna; coincidentally, they split up with their spouses months after (Madonna splitting with longtime hubby Guy Ritchie in October 2008 and Rodriguez splitting with then-wife Cynthia). Those distractions did not seem to help A-Rod's game, especially since the Yanks failed to make the playoffs last season for the first time since 1995.

Now with the recent allegations that Rodriguez tested positive for steroids in 2003 from a report by Sports Illustrated, his baseball career may be tainted forever. It is quite unfortunate that A-Rod had to go down this road and cheat when he had it all. Whether or not it is proven that Rodriguez did in fact used steroids, he needs to improve his clutch performance before his career goes down in flames since he is already playing with fire.

Natalie Gulbis

An American-born Latvian and native Sacramentan, professional women's golfer Natalie Gulbis' lifelong passion has been golf and she has golfed since the age of 4. When she joined the LPGA in 2002, she did not earn her first major tournament win until 2007 when she won the Evian Masters.



Earlier in Gulbis' career though, the golfer was better known for being a sex symbol. In the 2004 U.S. Women's Open, she not only participated in the tournament, but she was seen posing for a photo shoot in a swimsuit. Along with posing for FHM Magazine in 2004 and releasing a calendar in 2005, Gulbis seemed more focused on keeping up her sex image since it took quite sometime before earning her first major win.

Still 26-years-young, she has time to work on her stroke and earn an even a bigger win like an LPGA Championship win. Hopefully, when you type "Natalie Gulbis" into any search engine, there will be more results of pictures or statistics showing major tournaments and not just FHM photo shoots.

Danica Patrick

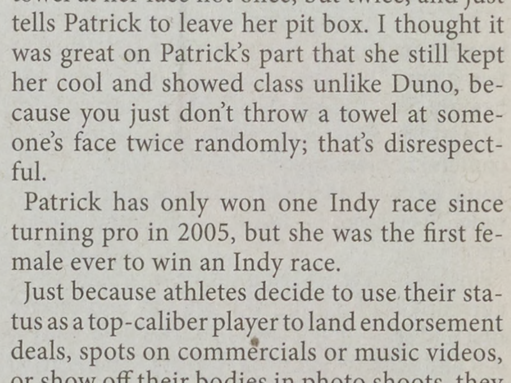
Now out of all the athletes I featured here, I actually respect Danica Patrick for what she has accomplished so far. If anything, I actually think it was more so unfortunate that she has been known more so for her sex appeal than for what she had to go through to get to where she is today.

Unlike most other top female athletes, Patrick competes in a sport predominantly ruled by men. Of course, not taking away from competition that other female athletes face, but just the fact that she competes against men who will of course not make the competition easy for her, she has carried herself fairly well.

Ironically, one of her biggest disputes was with another female Indy driver. In July 2008, Patrick got into a heated exchange with Milka Duno at her pit box because Patrick claimed that Duno drove too slow during the Honda Indy 200. While Patrick remained civilized throughout the whole ordeal, Duno throws a towel at her face not once, but twice, and just tells Patrick to leave her pit box. I thought it was great on Patrick's part that she still kept her cool and showed class unlike Duno, because you just don't throw a towel at someone's face twice randomly; that's disrespectful.

Patrick has only won one Indy race since turning pro in 2005, but she was the first female ever to win an Indy race.

Just because athletes decide to use their status as a top-caliber player to land endorsement deals, spots on commercials or music videos, or show off their bodies in photo shoots, they need to remember how they became popular: by being one of the best in their sport. Athletes are still athletes, not movie stars or singers and unless they are multi-talented in that aspect, what will they have going for them if they decide to throw away their career in sports and the cameras shut off?



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Contact Nick Hunte in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.

blogs | podcasts | videos | photos
"If it's on campus, it's online."

Hockey: Sac State was victorious in Saturday's game against Davis 6-2

Continued | page B1

ramento accumulated nearly a dozen.

"I don't have a problem with the penalties that were called," said Coach Tom Bowen.

Thomas Coursey scored the Hornets' ninth and final goal with just minutes on the clock. The fans began chanting "Double digits," partly out of pride for their team and partly because Skatetown serves pitchers of beer, resulting in a very enthusiastic bunch of patrons.

"If they didn't sell beer here, we wouldn't have any fans," said Gokalp Gurer, one of the Hornet goalies.

Sac State's team Captain Matt Vanatta said the rivalry with Davis always brings a lot of energetic fans and makes the team want to put on a show for them.

"It should get everyone pumped up," he said.

As the final seconds ticked away, the body-painted sea of green and gold spontaneously burst into an awkwardly charming arrangement of Steam's "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye."

Following this win, the team was pumped up to go onto Davis' turf on Saturday for a repeat victory and to finish off the season on a high note.

"I can't wait," Bowen said. He said the team just needs to go out and do the same thing. "It's going to be a fun game."

"We're going to their place. Obviously they can't like a 9-2 score so it's going to be tough," Gsell said.

At Saturday's game, Sac State held Davis to only two points and dominated the game 6-2.

* * *

Contact Dawn Johnson in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.

Adalto Nascimento State Hornet

Sacramento State student David Gibson sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" prior to the Friday night hockey match against UC Davis. The Hornets beat Davis 9-2.

Cheerleading: Cheerleaders afforded same protections as other physical athletes

Continued | page B1

soever on California law," Levine said. . "In California we have a primary assumption of risk regardless if the sport is a contact sport or not. According to the court, this allows people to not feel inhibited when they participate in recreational sports."

Wisconsin law makes a distinction between contact and non-contact recreational sports. California law makes no such distinction.

California Supreme Court ruled on recreational sports in Knight v. Jewett in 1992, prohibiting claims for injuries in a recreational game that occur during normal play of the game. Knight said the court would not grant liability for aggressive play in a game of touch football.

While the Knight ruling dealt with touch football, and therefore a contact sport, the California courts have used the ruling to deny claims in sports that are not contact sports. There have been cases since 1992 dealing with sports such as skiing, golf, swimming and diving, all relying on Knight to deny liability.

In a 1998 case, the California Supreme Court ruled on a case similar to the Wisconsin case. Aaris v. Las Virgenes Unified School District was a case of a San Diego area cheerleader who was tossed and didn't get caught properly and sued her cheer mates and the school district.

The Court ruled the cheerleader, Denning Aaris, knew the dangers of the stunt going in, and therefore assumed the risk involved. The justices wrote in the decision: "What goes up, must come down. This includes cheerleaders. Whenever gravity is at play with the human body, the risk of injury is inherent. While an appellate court has the power to change the law, we cannot change the law of gravity."

The court also stated Aaris' mother had signed a waiver of liability prior to the beginning of the season, and therefore, she could not now claim the school district was liable.

Since Knight, the California courts assign primary assumption of risk to the participant. This means the injured party would have to prove recklessness on the part of the teammate, coaches or school to be able to sue.

* * *

Contact Dan King in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.

File Photo State Hornet

Cheerleaders performed to packed stands during last year's Homecoming game. The California Supreme Court ruled that cheerleaders assume risks involved with stunts.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

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@ PORTLAND STATE
L 74-65

2/7
WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS
@ SAN JOSE STATE
L 194.200 - 192.300

2/8
MEN'S BASKETBALL
VS. PORTLAND STATE
L 74-65

2/8
MEN'S TENNIS
VS. WICHITA STATE
W 4-3

2/8
WOMEN'S TENNIS
@ EASTERN WASHINGTON
W 7-0

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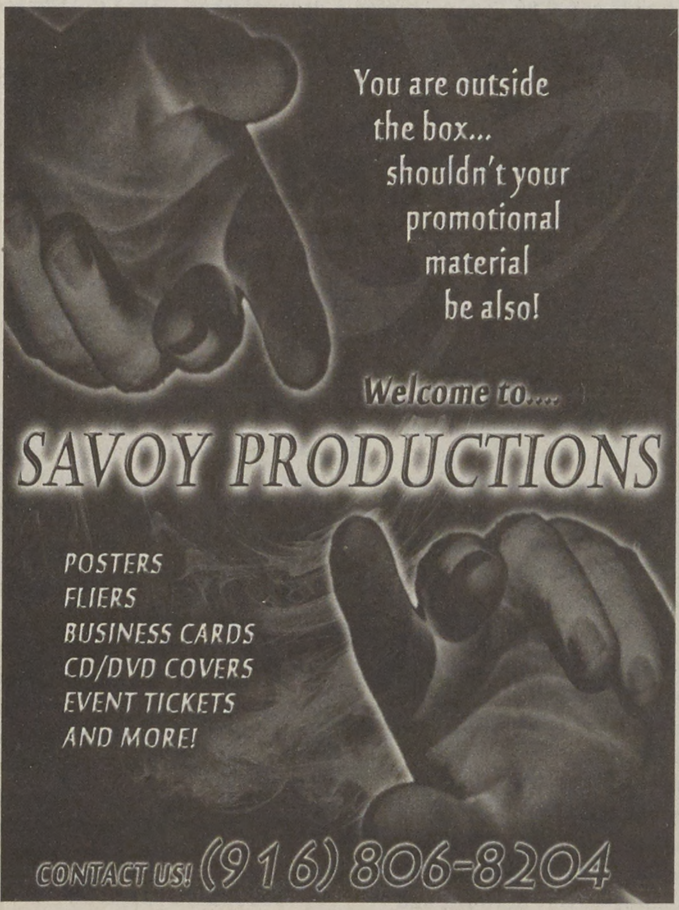
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Young lovers find their way back

Graphic by Megan Harris
State Hornet

By Cozette Roberts
croberts@statehornet.com

Looking for love in all the wrong places? A quick venture into your past could be all you need to reconnect with that special someone from long ago. Professor of psychology Nancy Kalish has studied the topic of lost lovers and is the author of "Lost & Found Lovers: Facts and Fantasies of Rekindled Romances."

After researching the topic for four years Kalish decided to write the novel; it was published in 1997. Kalish said she chose this topic as her sabbatical research project because no one had written about it before.

Her research was done questionnaire-style and administered to over 1,000 participants who ranged in age from 18 to 95. Her book also contains stories from reunited lovers in their own words.

Her research topic has earned her appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show as well as 20/20. As of today, about 4,000 people have been involved in her research.

The majority of her research concluded that young lovers were torn apart by their parents because of their disapproval. When Kalish questioned why parents disapproved of their child's young relationship, the truth came out.

"The girl's father was basically saying 'this guy is going to get my daughter pregnant,'" Kalish said. "It really bothered me as I heard these stories over and over. Their parents broke them apart."

One of the things that bothered Kalish the most was the time the lovers had lost.

"What I found was when these people get back together then they are in their fifties or sixties or forties they can't have children together," Kalish said.

Shelly Maree, junior theater major, said she can relate with Kalish's findings.

Maree experienced her first love when she was 15. The boy she fell in love with was 14 and his parents did not approve of their relationship. To this day Maree does not know what they didn't like about the relationship.

"We weren't allowed to go to the movies together; one of them had to be with us at all times," she said.

They were together for about three years despite his parent's disapproval. However one day his mother found a way to keep them apart for good.

"He ran away from his parent's house to my house and as a result of his running away he was sent to live with his cousins in Yuba City," Maree said.

Maree's story is similar to so many Kalish has heard before about parental interference.

"Here is the road I tell people to walk," Kalish said. "You don't have to like the people and you don't have to keep quiet. But that is different from breaking them apart."

Cindy Hurn was one of Kalish's students who quickly learned that she and her professor shared something in common. Hurn and her husband Rich are reunited lovers. In Hurn's case however, their separation was due to war.

Hurn and Rich met in the summer at a cottage her father rented in Cape Cod, approximately 100 miles from her hometown of Cheshire, Conn. They met one night at a dance at the Eastham Village Hall. When she returned home after summer the two kept in touch through letters.

For Hurn, writing became her way of expressing her love for Rich. She said their letters allowed the couple to get to know each other on an intimate level and made their love blossom.

Every chance Rich had, he would drive to visit Hurn. He would stay at a local motel and spend time with Hurn during the day.

This long distance relationship lasted for approximately three years until Rich joined the Air Force and was sent to Vietnam where they lost contact with one another. While Rich was away, Hurn started a new life in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. When Rich returned from Vietnam he was stationed in Sacramento.

Years later Hurn was visiting her sister who lived in nearby San Francisco. Rich called Hurn's sister looking to find where Hurn was and Hurn answered the phone. The couple were able to see each other for only one night. Rich was still in the Air Force and Hurn had her life in Canada.

Over 30 years had passed since their last meeting. In that time both were married with children and subsequently separated from their spouses. Six years ago the couple was reconnected through a website called classmates.com. Upon entering her information to the website, Rich, who had been searching for Hurn for many years, got a notice that the person he was searching for had been found. The rest, as they say, is history.

see **Romance** | page B5

Sac's newest obsession: Crepes

By Cozette Roberts
croberts@statehornet.com

Crepes are on the rise. In recent years Sacramento has had an increase in the number of restaurants that feature a variety of crepes on their menu. Crepes offer the consumer a different option when it comes to eating your typical meal.

They consist of a very thin pancake, usually made out of wheat flour. Crepes can be filled with anything the consumer can imagine. Think of an omelet made with a pancake instead of an egg. Crepes are so versatile that they can contain vegetables, chicken, cheese, or varieties of fruit and chocolate (a dessert crepe).

Juliana Ward, junior business and nutrition major at Sacramento State, is the shift supervisor at Crepeville in Sacramento.

"The crepe craze I'd say is something a little different than the usual. It's not just the basic sandwich or pasta meal, it's something different and exciting," Ward said.

Crepeville is located at 1730 L St., in Sacramento. The restaurant is a casual, trendy place where crepes can be enjoyed any time of the day between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. With a huge selection of delicious crepes to choose from, one might find it difficult to make a decision. Crepeville also gives the customer the option of indoor or outdoor seating.

Ward's job combines being around the food she loves and seeing familiar Sac State students.

"I see people from school all the time," Ward said. "During the weekday we have a lot of the business people coming from nearby businesses, but we also have a lot of the youth and trendy people in the evenings and lot of kids during the day."

Ward also enjoys working at a place where the atmosphere is so relaxed.

"It's just a great casual place to grab a bit to eat if you're looking for a quick something to get," Ward said.

Ward remembers that Leatherby's Ice Cream in Sac State's River Front Center was another crepe supplier. Leatherby's would serve a small variety of crepes along with their famous ice cream.

Some students, like Tanah Teixeira, a sophomore communication studies major, wonder why Leatherby's ended up leaving the campus. "I used to get a crepe from Leatherby's every week," Teixeira said.

Your crepe choice depends on what someone is in the mood for. Some people find the dessert crepes absolutely irresistible.

"Every time I go to Crepeville I tell myself I am going to get something solid but I always end up with the chocolate

see **Crepes** | page B5

Claire Padgett State Hornet

Crepe Escape, located on H and 57th Streets, serves a dessert crepe, called the "Strawberry Blints." It's filled with ricotta cheese, strawberry preserves and orange zest.

Surfer opens exhibit

Galib Ahmad State Hornet

Lindsey Nakano, senior philosophy and government major, enjoys the painting "The Most Supreme Pleasure" in the University Union Gallery.

By Andres Cuevas
acuevas@statehornet.com

While many Sacramento State students are surfing through channels during their free time, Patrick Powers goes to the ocean, hoping to find some good waves to surf on.

When he's not going to school working toward his master's in communication studies, Powers is mostly enjoying the outdoors.

Aside from surfing and schooling, Powers is president of Powers Friends and Associates, a public relations company. He also substitute teaches at schools, though his goal is to one day become a professor at a university.

Any chance he gets, Powers is looking to go surfing and get away from the fast life pace of the city

He gets to the beach early, watches the sun rise with all its colors and pays close attention to the details in

see **Art** | page B5

R&B artist Ryan Leslie steps out

By Martin Wood
mwood@statehornet.com

After his first album "Just Right" became a bootlegging casualty in 2003, Ryan Leslie is now ready for the limelight with his first album, self-titled, "Ryan Leslie." Universal Records scrapped the U.S. release of "Just Right" after the album was leaked onto the Internet months before its release date, and the label sent Leslie back into the studio.

Calling Leslie a new artist is an understatement. Leslie is no rookie in the music industry and has spent the last few years producing for mainstream artists including Cassie, Beyoncé, and Britney Spears to name a few.

Similar to Ne-Yo, Leslie also started his career song-writing for artists and his many talents make him a "one-stop shop" for making a hit record. His first break into the mainstream music scene came with Cassie's "Me & U," which he wrote and produced, peaking at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The album kicks off with the first single "Diamond Girl" which slipped in the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 at No. 95 with its heavily-synthesized, retro sound. Leslie compares love to the finer things in life with, "You're my diamond girl/You're the one, I put the

see **Album** | page B5

How to have Valentine's Day on a budget

BY CHRISTINA LI
cli@statehornet.com

Going out to eat at a fancy restaurant? Buying expensive gifts this year? Maybe you should consider saving your money. With the current economic crisis, many Sacramento State students are noticing a difference in the way they are celebrating Valentine's Day. Instead of spending hundreds of dollars on their loved ones, students are keeping it simple by either spending less money or no money at all.

Students who have jobs, like junior criminal justice major Daniel Lamons, are feeling the change in the economy.

"I work at a Safeway in Vallejo and they cut hours," Lamons said. "We don't get as many hours, so I don't get as much money."

Lamons, who spent around $200 last year for Valentine's Day, said he has a limited budget this year. He made reservations this year at a steakhouse which will cost about $100 altogether.

Swetha Raghavendra, masters computer science major, said she and her fiancé were planning to go out for dinner. Although Raghavendra will go out to celebrate this year, she thinks spending money on expensive gifts is not what encompasses the true meaning of Valentine's Day.

"I would be happy if he gives me a bunch of flowers. Even a single flower will do," Raghavendra said

Sara Phillips, junior English major, spent around $80 last year, but is intending to spend $20 this year.

"Last year (my boyfriend and I) went out to a nice dinner and a movie. This year I think we're just going to stay home," Phillips said.

When it comes to saving money, Phillips suggested old-school gifts.

"My roommate is doing a picture slide show of her and her boyfriend on a C.D. That was her option," Phillips said.

Samantha Eustaquio, junior interior design major, isn't planning to do anything this year. She did say if she planned on doing anything it would be cute, cheap, and simple, but still romantic.

Eustaquio thinks keeping it simple and thoughtful is the best way to go.

"Instead of eating out at a restaurant, maybe do a little picnic. Instead of buying roses, maybe pick out some flowers," she said.

Restaurants, on the other hand, seem to be having an easier time this Valentine's Day than Sac State students.

John Mark, manager of The Old Spaghetti Factory, did not seem to think the economy was effecting the amount of people eating out.

"I have a feeling my Saturday will be like any other Saturday," Mark said.

Andrew Kingsbury, manager of Mulvaney's B & L on 19th Street, agrees that restaurants may not be feeling the economic woes this Valentine's Day.

"We have more reservations this year than we did last year," Kingsbury said.

For students who are looking for ideas to save money this Valentine's Day, Rob Pham, sophomore finance major, suggests staying at home.

"It's not how much you spend, it's the quality of time you put in," Pham said.

Many students at Sac State believe that spending quality time with your significant other is better than getting something materialistic.

Freshman Priysha Kapoor recommends that people refrain from buying each other gifts.

"Valentine's Day is about being together, not buying each other gifts," Kapoor said. "I mean if you really love that person you'll find a way to be with that person instead of sending a gift."

* * *

Contact Christina Li in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

Romance: Stories of reunited lovers are told

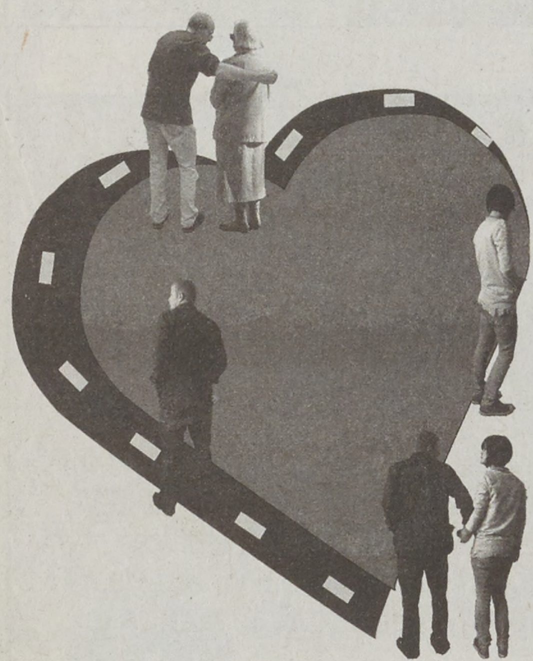


Photo Illustration by Claire Padgett State Hornet

Continued | page B4

For the next six months the couple communicated via e-mail and all of their emotions vividly returned. When they finally met in person in Sacramento it was like no time had passed between them. The first thing she realized was how her feeling from when she danced with him the first time and how she felt when they reconnected on that day were the same.

"Immediately that sense of him overwhelmed me," Hurn said.

When Hurn took Kalish's class, she heard about the book the professor wrote as well as the research she had been compiling. The topic of imprinting came up and Hurn finally understood her feelings from the past. Kalish explained to her class that there are two points in your life where imprinting occurs in your emotional memory.

"There is a lot of research coming out in neuroscience…these raging teenage hormones are there for a reason and they are encoded as emotional memories in the primitive part of the brain. They pop out again when you re-meet your lost love," Kalish said.

So what is it about young love? The story of young lovers has stood the test of time. Shakespeare wrote about it. Romeo and Juliet took their lives for it. Stephanie Meyer's Twilight series features the love of young Edward and Bella. Young love is so trivial, so innocent, and so special. Kalish seems to be able to put it in better words, "You went to school together, you formed your identity together and you formed a definition of what love is together. I believe when people grow up together they grow up sharing certain values and roots and some of these people who so call 'reunite' were just friends in high school."

* * *

Contact Cozette Roberts in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

Crepe: Restaurants offer calm environment

Continued | page B4

and strawberry dessert crepe," Teixeira said.

The big question is whether or not the crepe craze will return to Sac State. With Miyagi Sushi sitting pretty in Leatherby's place, it is doubtful. We are yet to see what is in store for campus dinning, so crepe lovers stay hopeful.

In the meantime, crepe enthusiasts can also venture to The Crepe Escape to satisfy their crepe needs.

Kenny Anwaianh is the manager of The Crepe Escape on H Street.

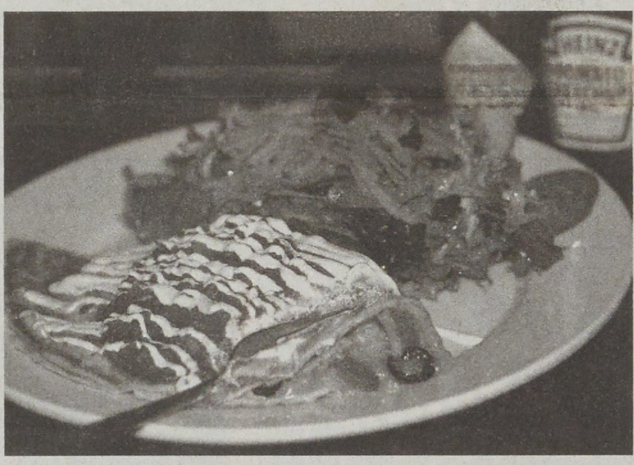
"People like them because they are healthy," Anwaianh said. "They're very light; they're not very heavy on the stomach at all." In his opinion, crepes are a nutritious way for a person to get their daily amounts of meat, bread, vegetables and dairy.

Anwainh feels that The Crepe Escape's care-free environment draws students to the location. "They do their homework here and relax while enjoying great food," Anwainh said.

Perhaps the draw for students isn't just the great food but the positive work environment these restaurants can create. The change in environment can help with productivity in school work. Perhaps crepe restaurants will be the new wave of coffee houses for students at Sac State.

* * *

Contact Cozette Roberts in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.



Claire Padgett State Hornet

Crepe Escape offers a crepe dish called salsa fresca is filled with cheddar cheese, olives, avocado, and tomato.

Album: Ryan Leslie shines in recent album

Continued | page B4

rock on/You're my diamond girl/You're one that I quit the game for."

Like many of Leslie's tracks, "Diamond Girl" strays away from the generic, formulaic sound of most popular radio tunes of today and its infectiously catchy chorus demands attention. The "R-Les" signature sound consists of electro-R&B, which is always full of feel-good energy and accompanies catchy, love-driven lyrics.

Leslie keeps the energy flowing with "Quicksand" which gives off an uptempo vibe reminiscent of the early work of The Neptunes with its clean guitar chords, funky synths and smooth electric piano.

Leslie feels as if he's stuck in quicksand from a woman's allure as he sings, "She's incomparable/She's a 10/and she plays with all the silly hearts of men…"

My favorite track on the album emerges in "I-R-I-N-A" which chronicles his appreciation for a Russian fashion model named Irina Sheik. At first listen, it sounds like another love song, but it's actually a more platonic dedication to the opposite sex. "I-R-I-N-A/said I might not speak your language/but I know just what to say/I-R-I-N-A/Ooh, I wanna see you everyday." The track's simple piano chords evolve into a mirage of synths and strings that carry the song and speak for themselves after the lyrics fade away.

The song is actually inspired from Sheik's words of encouragement during his "Diamond Girl" video shoot. Going through a difficult part in his love life, Leslie says on his YouTube channel that all it takes is one person to stay "I'm diggin' you" to turn his life around.

"The song's not sexual," says Leslie. "The word 'love' doesn't appear once."

Leslie then throws us a curveball with "Gibberish," the last track on the album. The track starts out like another love ballad with unaccompanied piano chords. Leslie then brings in a jumble of gibberish like the title suggests, which sounds immediately like the recently auto-tune intoxicated Lil' Wayne.

As a producer myself, my initial reaction to the track was, "How did this incomplete reference track make the album?" As a reviewer satisfied with the album until this point, my other reaction was, "OK, I found the kryptonite on the album. Now I have something to criticize."

But as I listened to it more and more, the unintelligible words and syllables started to grow on me even though Leslie probably had a better chance understanding Irina's French than I had understanding Ryan's mumblings.

Even though I feel the freestyled segments and sounds downplay Leslie's songwriting skills, Leslie just made it sound so damn good. I then realized that it takes true talent to make nonsense sound that good. Is "Gibberish" a mockery of the current state of the auto-tune infested radio dominated by T-Pain, Lil' Wayne, and Kanye West?

Music was always his passion. Growing up in Stockton, Calif, Leslie's parents insisted that he graduate from college before pursuing a career in music. So at the age of 15, Leslie dropped out of high school to attend Harvard University where he would graduate with a degree in government economics at the age of 19.

Boasting a perfect 1600 SAT score while achieving a degree from Harvard at such an early age shows that Leslie truly has an intellectual edge over most musicians.

Overall, the album was everything a R-Les fan would expect from him while new listeners can expect a brand new sound of R&B.

The album proves that Leslie is ready to be noticed as an artist in addition to a producer and songwriter. Timbaland may have an edge over Leslie beat-wise with his 2007 release, "Shock Value," but Leslie's singing and songwriting simply overpower Timbaland's occasional vocal contributions of a verse or hook.

The album's only shortcoming is its 12-song length. Of course, one can argue that more tracks would lead to filler tracks, but a few bonus tracks like the unreleased song "Rock U" could have made the album a bit more dynamic.

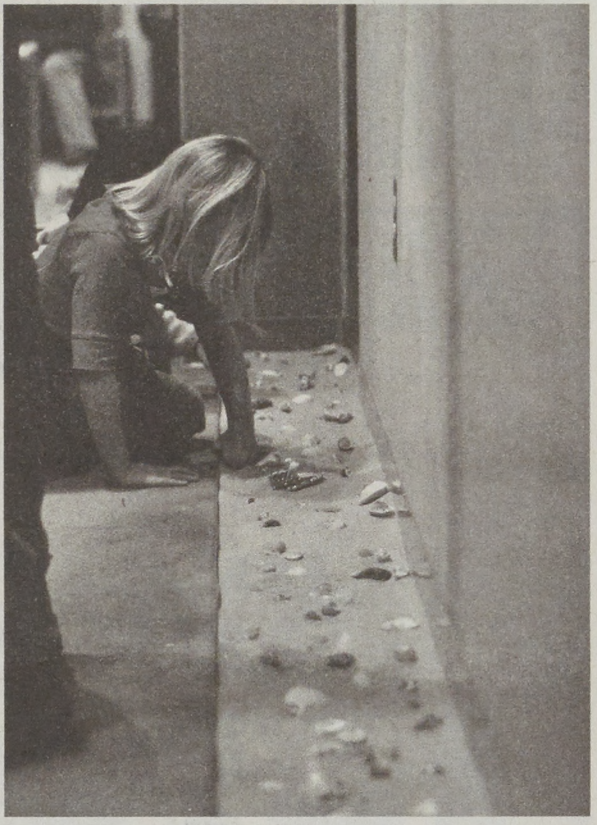
The multi-talented singer/producer/songwriter is a rarity in current times where labels are shopping for the next ringtone instead of true talent. Leslie is a true all-around artist and exhibits the widest range of talents since Alicia Keys.

Also, by posting new videos nearly every day on YouTube or Ryanleslie.com, Leslie has a stronger connection to his following than most artists. Fans and aspiring artists can get a behind-the-scenes look at the music industry and even view studio footage of him creating nearly half of the songs featured on the album.

Leslie is currently working with Usher and his self-titled debut "Ryan Leslie" is only a preview of what he has in store to revive modern R&B.

* * *

Contact Martin Wood in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.



Galib Ahmad State Hornet

"The Most Supreme Pleasure," includes sand and seashells on the floor to create a beach theme.

Art: Student finds inspiration in surf

Continued | page B4

the images he sees. When he's done surfing and goes home, he picks up his brush and paints some of the images he's seen.

"It's a way for me to relax after surfing, and surfing is pretty much an obsession for me," he said.

Although Powers has been painting and surfing for a long time, he just recently had his first exhibit, "The Most Supreme Pleasure," for his paintings at Sac State and said he was very excited about it.

"At first, I was told there weren't any open spots for shows until 2010, but they called me and said there was a spot open in six weeks so I put everything together as well as I could in such little time," Powers said.

Powers said that although he's never had an exhibit with his paintings, he's been painting a long time and had a lot of work to choose from for the show.

Robert Ansell, a surfing buddy, said going surfing allows one to realize just how beautiful Mother Nature really is, and he believes that Powers does a great job embodying this beauty in his paintings.

"When you're out there ready to surf in the morning, you begin to question why you're even out there, with how cold it is and everything." Ansell said. "But then once you're in, you realize just how gorgeous it is and exactly why you're out there."

Ansell said he always feels like taking pictures while he's surfing because of the incredible things he sees.

"I always want to take a picture, and that's what Patrick does. He takes mental pictures of the different and always-changing scenery Mother Nature provides and then goes home to paint them," he said.

Powers also enjoys teaching people how to surf and taking them out to the ocean for lessons.

"There was this younger girl who wanted to learn how to surf and she insisted on it, so I began to take her along with me and she learned little by little," Powers said. "A funny thing is that even on her prom night, she got up early the next day and was ready to go surf."

One of the things that stands out about Powers' art exhibit is the sand and seashells on the floor beneath the paintings, going around the room and giving it a beach feel.

A lot of those seashells were collected by Powers' daughters, and he said he enjoys taking them along on trips wherever he goes.

Isabella Powers, his 9-year-old daughter, said she is proud of his paintings.

"I love how he paints places where he's been, he spends a lot of time on them," Isabella said.

On Super Bowl Sunday, while most people were watching the game, Powers took his daughters snowboarding and had a nice time with hardly anyone around.

"Around 3 o'clock, it was completely empty out on the slopes and it was wonderful," Powers said.

The exhibit will be up until March 19 in the Union Gallery on the second floor of the University Union.

* * *

Contact Andres Cuevas in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

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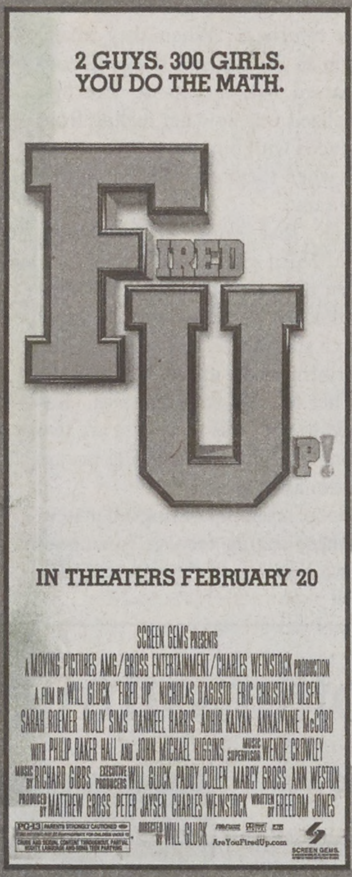
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State Hornet

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No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Passes are in limited supply and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Limit one pass per person. Each pass admits two people.

This film is rated PG-13. Please note: Passes received through this promotion do not guarantee you a seat at the theatre. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, except for members of the reviewing press. Theatre is overbooked to ensure a full house. No admittance once screening has begun. All federal, state and local regulations apply. A recipient of tickets assumes any and all risks related to use of ticket, and accepts any restrictions required by ticket provider. Screen Gems, Terry Hines & Associates, State Hornet and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Tickets cannot be exchanged, transferred or redeemed for cash, in whole or in part. We are not responsible if, for any reason, winner is unable to use his/her ticket in whole or in part. Not responsible for lost; delayed or misdirected entries. All federal and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Void where prohibited by law. NO PHONE CALLS!

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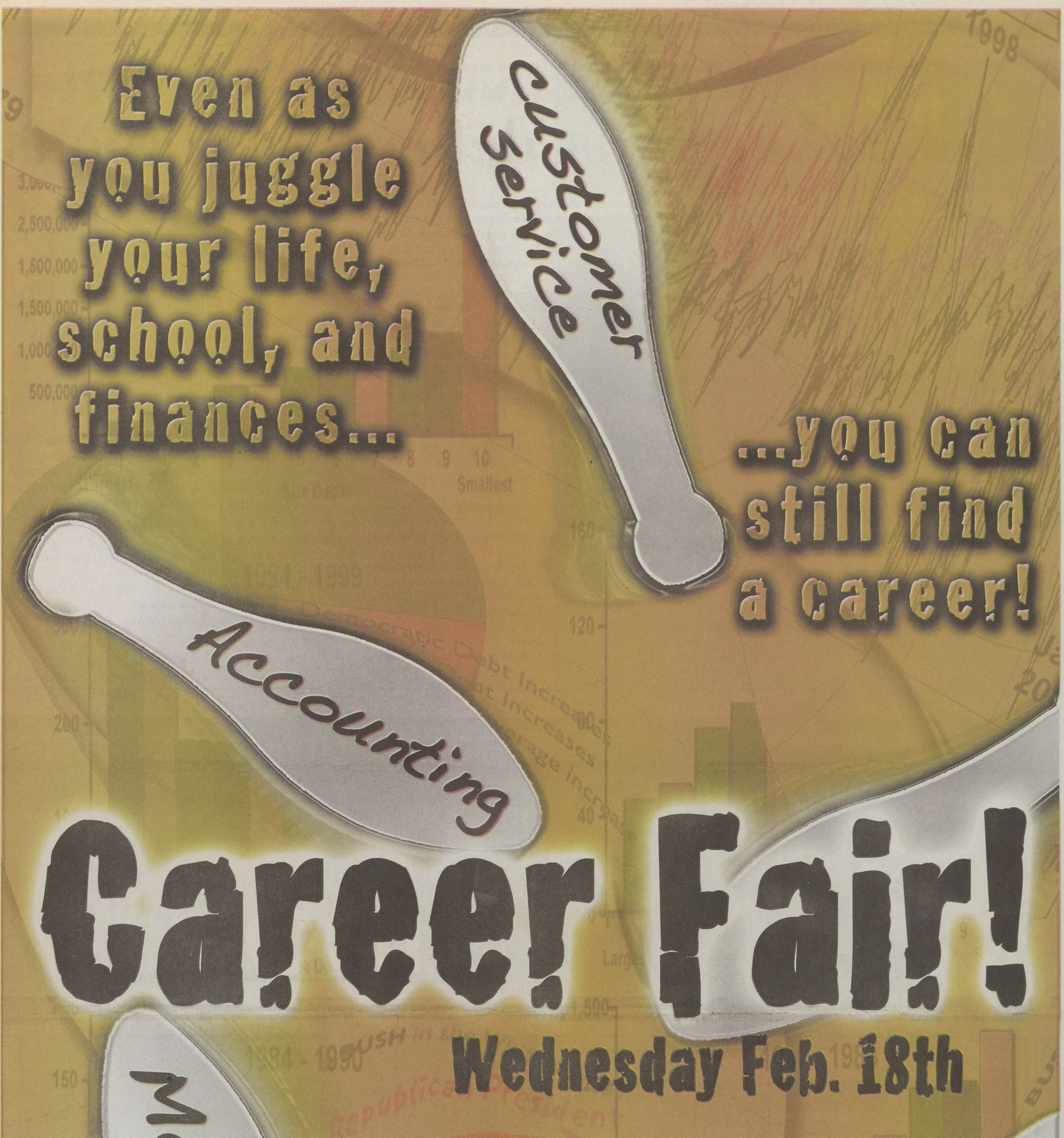

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"I knew she had a lot of potential. She just needed to challenge herself. She needed to be exposed to other cultures and other opportunities."

Belinda Quezada, sister of Edith Crystal Quezada

Alumna succeeds; defies expectations

By Amber Wertman
awertman@statehornet.com

Growing up in an impoverished town like Calexico, just outside of San Diego, did not make it easy to succeed. Especially for someone like Edith Crystal Quezada, whose high school teachers said getting out of town would be nearly impossible.

With limited resources and no Advanced Placement courses at her school, Quezada's sisters encouraged her to give higher education a shot.

"School counselors never told me about college," Quezada said.

The community focuses on staying in the valley, getting married and settling down, she said. The barrier was the school system.

Quezada's older sister, Belinda Quezada, was the one to push her to want other things.

"I knew she had a lot of potential. She just needed to challenge herself. She needed to be exposed to other cultures and other opportunities," Belinda said.

Living in a low-income town, her parents were both farm workers and financially unable to support her dreams. In ever other aspect they pushed her to hope for more. They knew education would be the key to better opportunities in life.

Quezada attended Imperial Valley Community College for a year and a half. She was studying psychology when she realized that wasn't what she wanted to do with her life.

"I love politics and government so I transferred to the state capitol to experience something different," Quezada said.

She graduated from Sacramento State with a degree in government and completed two programs; Sacramento Semester and the Chief Clerk's internship program. Quezada is now participating in the California State Assembly Fellowship Program.

"My sisters and I were first-generation college graduates," she said.

Looking over the legislative process for Assemblywoman Anna M. Caballero can be a daunting task to say the least, but assistant clerk to the Office of the Chief Clerk Xochitl Rodriguez said Quezada has a strong will to achieve her goals.

"She's dedicated a lot of her time to legislation. Her job requires her to do a little bit of everything. She is passionate about her job and takes it very seriously," Rodriquez said.

Quezada's older sister remembers a time that was particularly trying for her younger sister. It was during this time that the eldest sister urged her to pursue a career that she genuinely enjoyed.

"She was worried she would let our parents down by taking a little bit long changing schools, but I told her she just needed to go with it and make the decision," Quezada's sister said.

But that small setback didn't stop her from improving her career and becoming an Assembly fellow this year. She knows it's hard work and loves a challenge; she proudly boasts about herself for proving so many others wrong.

"People telling me I can't make it made me want to prove them wrong, and I did," she said.

Proving those who doubted her wrong has instilled a renewed sense of confidence in Quezada.

"It feels great to know I am self-sufficient. I wanted to prove to everyone differently, that I could do for myself. I don't depend on others and it feels good," she said.

Looking back, she now knows none of this would be possible without the support of her parents and her sister for showing her what so many others in Imperial Valley failed to see: opportunity.

The ambition Quezada acquired over the years certainly didn't all come from within. Quezada's sister attributes herself for giving her younger sister that extra "push."

"She was a little bit like me, she just needed the push. It paid off, she was scared, but she saw me and how successful I was and figured she could do it too."

Needless to say she has come a long way from being the scared and worried girl who was unsure of her future.

She is proud of her accomplishments, but mostly of having the privilege of working in the state Capitol. "My parents are so proud of me. They realize that this is a great opportunity coming from a low-income house," Quezada said.

Quezada now works with powerful people who have the ability to change the lives of all Californians, even schoolteachers, from the small town of Calexico.

⁂

Contact Amber Wertman in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

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FBI's most wanted: 2,100 new recruits

Vanessa Guerrero

People are now thinking, "where are we heading in this economy?" At this point, the answer seems to be unemployment.

Many recent college graduates have been job searching for months but have only received rejection letters.

Monster.com, an online job search agency, doesn't seem to have the same capacity it once had for finding high-paying office jobs for recent graduates.

Shuttered storefronts have been filling malls and limiting opportunities for part-time employees. So what is one to do?

Sacramento State graduate Sergio Elizarraras has been job searching for over a year and still has not found any open positions in social work.

Elizarraras graduated with a bachelor's in ethnic studies and a minor in Spanish. After graduation in fall 2007, his plans were to work as a counselor in a correctional institution in Yolo or Sacramento County.

"I began applying six months before graduation and didn't manage to get in," Elizarraras said.

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor reported a rise of 7.2 percent in unemployment rates during the month of December in 2008.

Statistics also show that 11.1 million people have lost their jobs since the beginning of the recession in 2007.

The numbers make my jaw drop. That means only bad news for recent and future college graduates.

I can't help but raise the question of a possible second "Great Depression". However, I'm not willing to get carried away yet. There might not be many job openings in the private sector, but U.S. governmental agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation are looking to bring aboard new personnel.

According to a recent press release by the FBI, it is ready to hire.

The FBI is looking to bring aboard roughly 2,100 personnel in different areas of the agency.

Reasons behind the decision to add jobs were given by FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller in an interview with the San Gabriel Valley Tribune in early January.

She mentioned that a recent rise in "bank robberies" in the Southern California region and "foreseen critical vacancies" inside the agency were the main reasons for the need for new personnel in the agency.

Criminal justice majors, looks like you may be in luck. To others, the search continues.

Maintaining a positive attitude is critical in a time of crisis such as the one we are currently facing. Times were worse during the "Great Depression," and our society was able to get back on its feet. Job opportunities opened up as time progressed.

President during the "Great Depression," Franklin D. Roosevelt was seen as the ultimate leader because he was able to get the country out of crisis. Today, hopeful eyes turn to President Barack Obama.

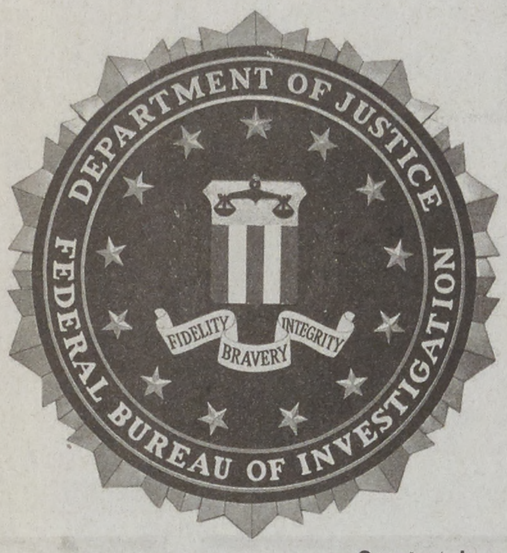
Is President Obama the key leader now?

Those in favor have joined the hope banner under his wing, but unfortunately only time will determine the nation's future.

Students, look to stay in school a little longer, if classes are available, of course, in order to avoid having to pay back loans without the guarantee of a job after graduation. Try to wait it out, at least until the economy gets back on its feet.

▸◂▸◂▸◂

Contact Vanessa Guerrero in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7657.



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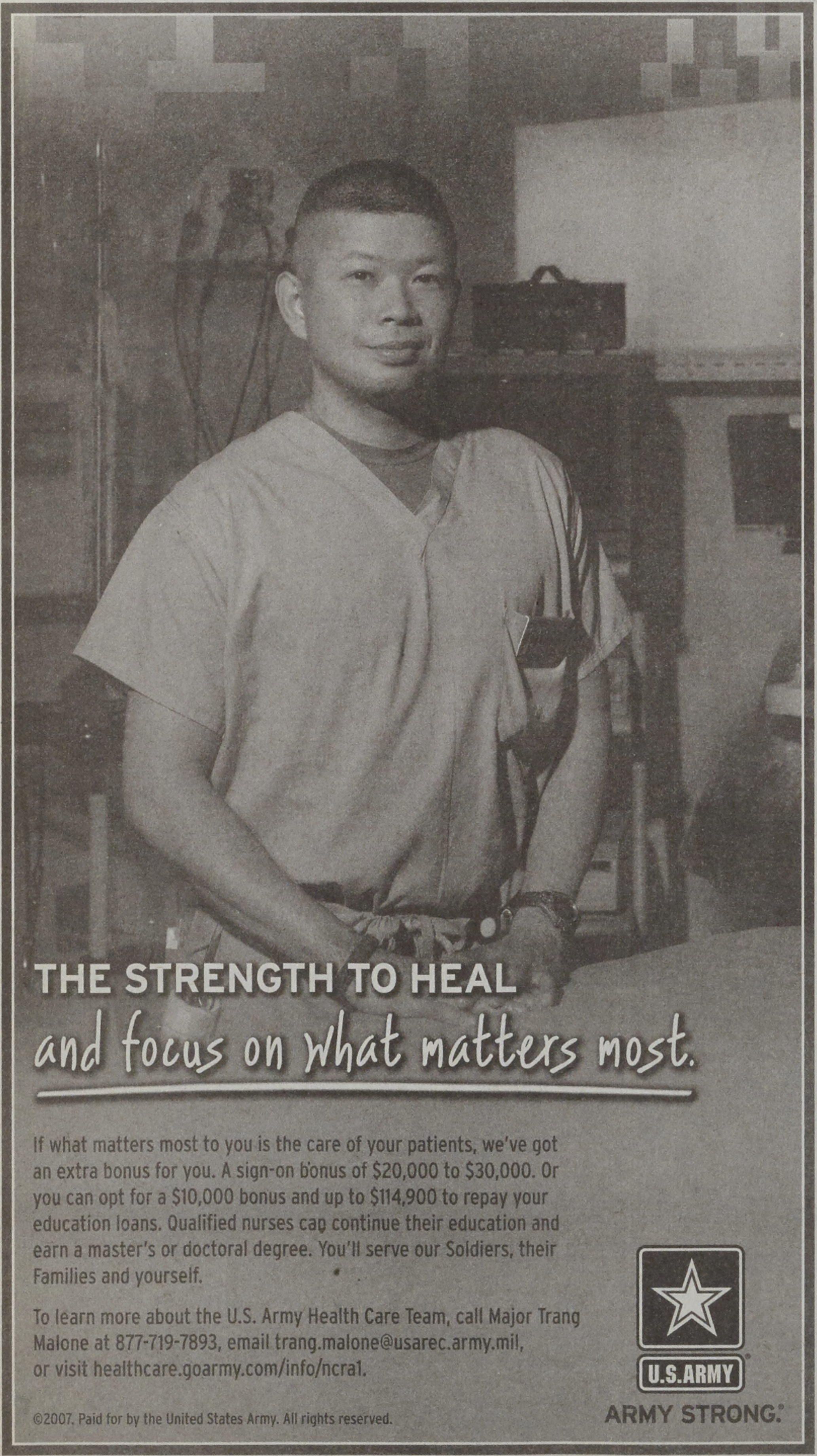
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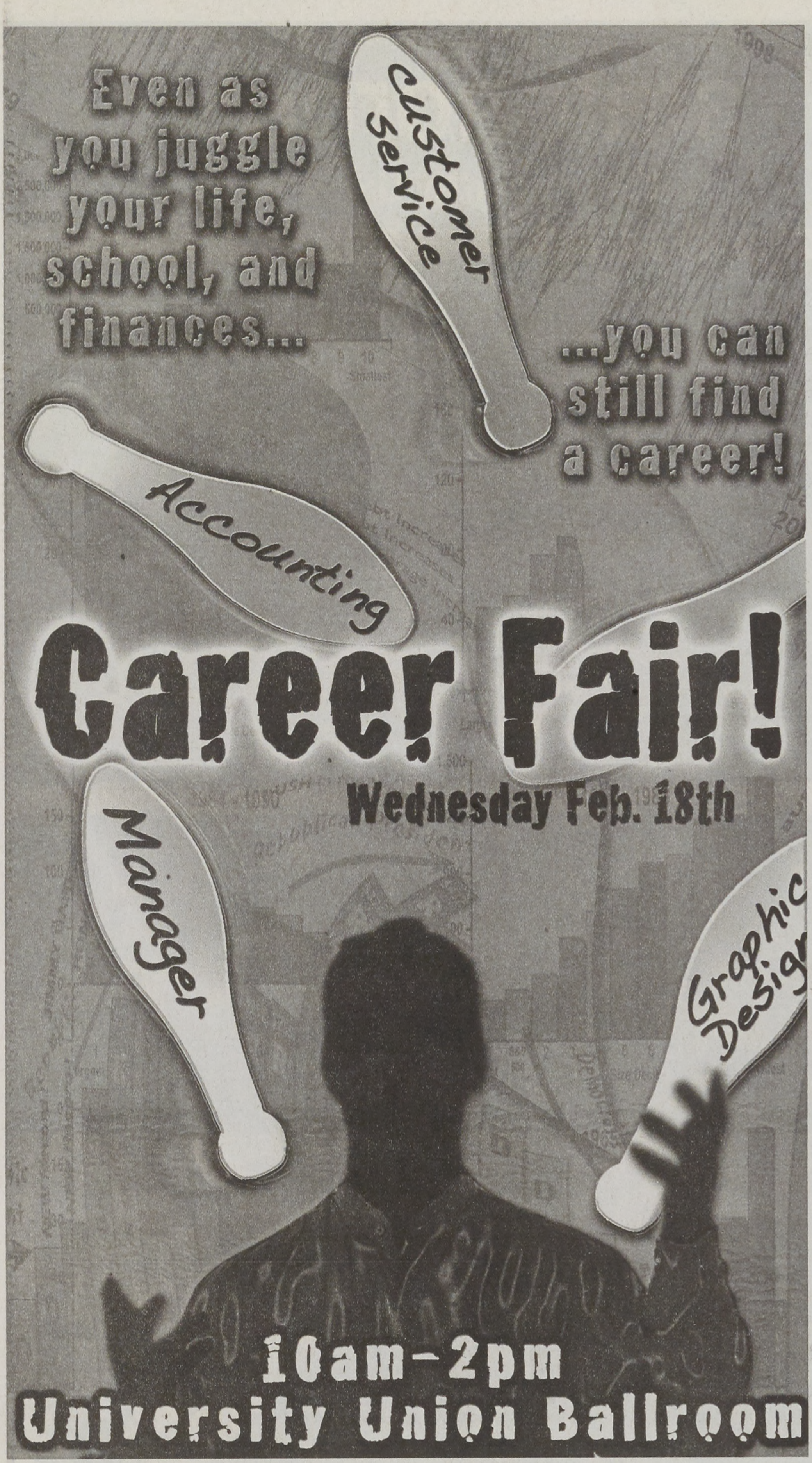
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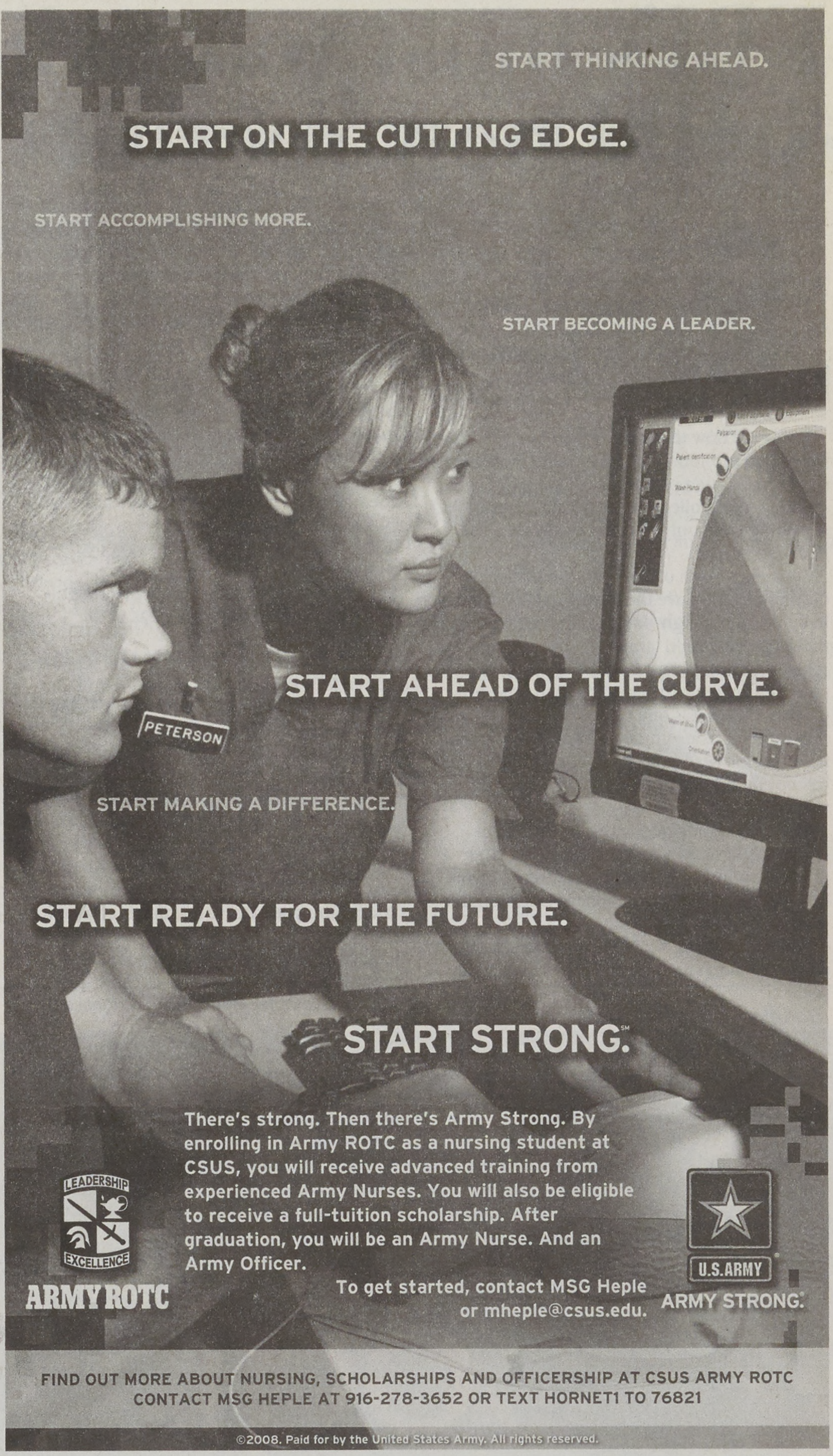
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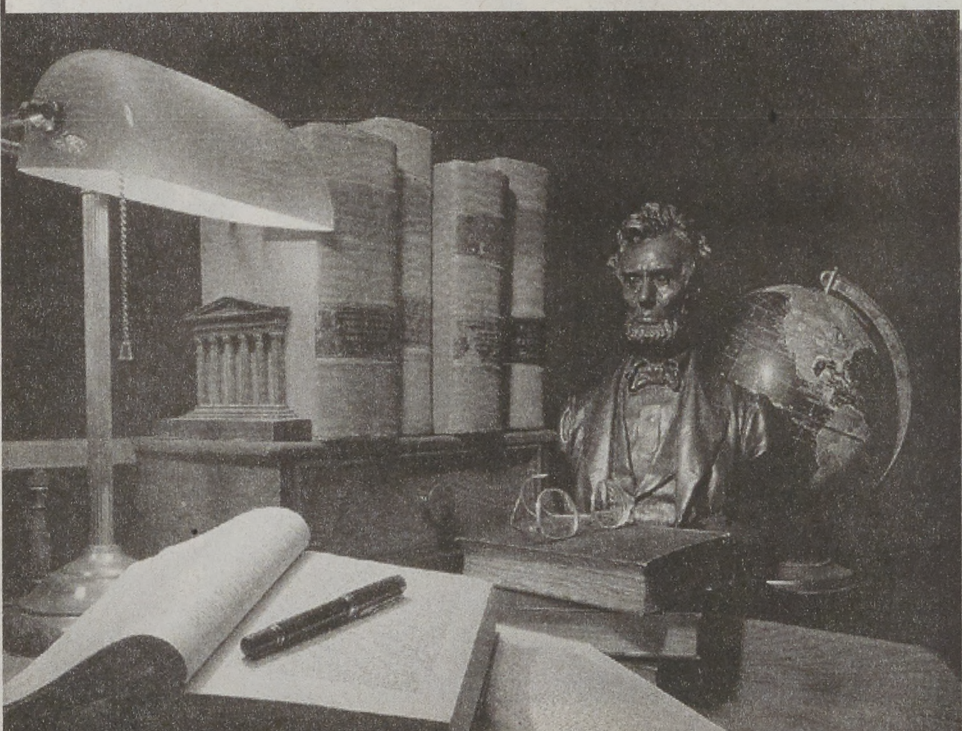

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